# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**SESSION 2010–2012**

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*10 January 2012*

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 10 January 2012*

## TREASURY

### Finance Bill

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke):** The Finance Bill will be published on Thursday 29 March.

Explanatory notes on the Bill will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and placed in the Libraries of both Houses on that day. Copies of the explanatory notes will be available on the Treasury's website.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Department's Work (Christmas Recess)

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):** I would like to update hon. Members on the main items of business undertaken by my Department since the House rose for Christmas recess on 20 December 2011.

*Community budgets*

Decentralisation of funding and ensuring greater value for taxpayers' money are key goals for my Department. On 21 December, my Department announced 14 new community budget areas that will be able to combine resources into a locally co-ordinated funding pot with greater local control that will help improve services for local people.

Four "whole place" pilots will create a joint team with local partners to establish devolved budget proposals with decision-making structures for a locally run operation during this year. This will help achieve significant public sector savings, cut red tape and improve policy making.

Ten "neighbourhood level" areas have also been selected to develop smaller scale community budgets that will give residents a micro-local level say over the services they want and use. The local community will play a leading role, working with councils and professionals, to shape local services so they work from a customer's perspective.

*Council reserves*

Reflecting our commitment to greater local government transparency, on 29 December, my Department published detailed figures for council budget reserves based on revenue budget forecast returns for 2011-12 provided by local authorities. Overall, English local authorities expect to be holding £10.8 billion in reserves on 31 March 2012. Their forecasts a year ago on 31 March 2011 totalled £11 billion.

Determining the level and use of reserves is a matter for individual local authorities, taking into account local challenges and priorities. However, this demonstrates many councils have room for manoeuvre with their finances that can help them deliver more efficient local services in future years.

*Local audit arrangements*

Following the decision to abolish the Audit Commission, the Government sought views last year on a new, more transparent and accountable local public audit framework that would reduce the cost of public audit and maintain high standards of scrutiny over public money.

On 4 January, my Department published proposals for its next steps for the audit of local public bodies. The new framework will free local bodies to appoint their own independent auditors from an open and competitive market. It will be based on the private sector audit model with transparent regulation overseen by the Financial Reporting Council and the National Audit Office. Separate arrangements will be developed for smaller bodies like parish councils.

The Government intend to bring forward legislation to formally close down the Audit Commission and introduce the new framework as soon as parliamentary time allows. A draft Bill will be published for pre-legislative scrutiny in the spring.

*Supporting home ownership*

In November 2011, my Department published an ambitious housing strategy to tackle the housing shortage, boost the economy, create jobs and give people the opportunity to get on the housing ladder.

The housing strategy included an announcement of our plans to increase the right to buy. Right to buy can promote opportunity and boost social mobility for social housing tenants but restrictions on discounts in recent years have limited the impact of the scheme. To ensure that there is no reduction in the supply of affordable homes any additional home bought under the right to buy will, for the first time, lead directly to the provision of a new affordable home for rent on a one-to-one basis. On 22 December the Department published our proposals to increase the discount cap under the right to buy scheme to £50,000, making it easier for social tenants to buy their homes.

Also on 22 December, my Department announced further details of the £420 million get Britain building fund. The fund will help builders with planning permission get back onto housing sites that have been shut down because of problems accessing development finance. Over the next two years, this £420 million fund is expected to unlock up to 16,000 homes on sites that are currently stalled, and help create up to 30,000 jobs in construction and related industries.

The Government want to see investment and support right across the housing sector to improve the rental market and opportunities for homeownership. On 23 December, my Department confirmed that Sir Adrian Montague will lead a review of barriers to investment in rented homes. The review will examine how best to encourage greater investment in rental properties—helping support the rapid growth of the private rented sector by increasing the supply of affordable homes.

*Social housing*

On 5 January, my Department published new allocations guidance for consultation that will release councils and housing associations from the shackles of the current tick-box approach for allocating social homes.

The new freedoms will ensure councils and housing associations can reward achievement and encourage housing mobility—so scarce and precious social homes go to people who genuinely need and deserve them the most, such as hard working families and ex-servicemen and women.

At the same time, housing providers will be able to tackle the tenants who are able to work but do not take up opportunities for jobs. For too long there has been a sense of unfairness over who gets to live in social housing, with a common belief that tenancies only go to those who know how to play the system.

Several councils have already indicated they want to introduce a new flexible approach to manage allocations—Westminster, Southend and Manchester councils will prioritise those who show responsibility and make an effort to find work, and in Wandsworth those tenants on new flexible contracts who do not make an effort to find work will risk losing their tenancy.

*Homelessness*

On 21 December, my Department announced an additional £20 million to provide single people facing homelessness more housing options to ensure they do not have to spend time on the streets. This funding is in addition to the £400 million preventing homelessness grant.

A new programme will also be introduced to help local authorities improve their homelessness prevention process for single people.

Some £8 million from the homelessness transition fund, which was set up to help support the national rough sleeping strategy, has been allocated to 19 communities across England to support a national roll out of London flagship "No Second Night Out". The initiative works with local communities to help provide the accommodation and support for rough sleepers.

*Helping the elderly*

On 3 January, the Department for Health announced a one-off additional £150 million will be allocated to primary care trusts in England, for immediate transfer to local authorities for investment in social care services which also benefit the health system. For those needing adaptations to their homes, the Government have confirmed an additional £20 million for disabled facilities grants—bringing the total to £200 million for 2011-12 alone.

We are also providing £51 million towards home improvement agencies, who will provide help and advice including:

> housing advice, including help to move to more suitable accommodation if needed;
>
> handyperson services, including small home repairs, home safety and security adaptations;
>
> energy efficiency advice; and
>
> arranging for adaptations and home repairs to be made, including grab rails, stair-lifts and major work such as ground floor extensions.

These agencies also offer hospital discharge services—ensuring older people leaving hospital care are given the support they need to be able to recuperate in the comfort of their own homes.

We are also providing £1.5 million funding for FirstStop, which provides independent advice to older people looking to plan their future housing needs—whether in their own homes, or in care homes. This is in addition to work already underway to look at new and innovative ways in which elderly people can fund their future care needs without having to resort to selling their property.

*Traveller sites*

On 7 January 2012, my Department announced the successful outcome of bids for £60 million of funding that will provide new authorised pitches and better facilities for travellers on official sites. The Homes and Communities Agency have completed their assessment of bids and have recommended offers that will deliver over 750 new and improved pitches at a cost of £47 million. The remaining fund will continue to be considered and the agency will help those who did not see their bids approved to resubmit improved offers.

This support for official traveller pitches goes hand in hand with action against unauthorised traveller sites. Through the Localism Act, the Government are introducing stronger powers for councils to tackle the abuse of retrospective planning permission. These strengthened powers are helping councils tackle any form of unauthorised development. The new authorised travellers' sites will provide help to reduce the number of unauthorised sites, which create tensions between travellers and the settled community.

The last Government's approach was ineffective because traveller site funding was allocated but often remained unspent. By imposing top-down targets for traveller sites, local councils were compelled to encroach onto the green belt and open countryside, harming community relations and further leading to an increase in the number of unauthorised sites.

*Flag flying regulations*

On 6 January, my Department set out proposals to allow a much wider range of flags to be flown without the need for planning permission. Under current planning rules, only a select group of flags can be flown without express permission from councils and a fee of up to £335. Under the new rules, people will be able to fly a much wider range of flags including the flags of football and cricket teams or towns and villages. It will also allow communities to show support for our armed forces by easing rules on flying local regimental flags.

If people want to celebrate something that is important to them by flying a flag they should be able to do so without having to fill in forms or paying town hall officials for the privilege. This will make it easier for people to celebrate their allegiance to a cause, a county or a local organisation if they choose to do so.

I am placing the press notices and documents associated with these announcements in the Library of the House.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Youth Sport Strategy

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt):** Today I am announcing a new youth sport strategy, designed to create a sporting habit for life among young people.

This Government are committed to creating a lasting sporting legacy from the Olympic and Paralympic games and making good on the original promise to use the

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games to inspire a new generation and create a deep and lasting legacy of sports participation in every community.

However, since 2005 when we won the bid to stage the games, participation rates in sport in England have fallen, particularly among young people. Our new approach aims to arrest this decline and will have a strong focus on providing the necessary opportunities and infrastructure for young people to develop a sporting habit for life. Over the next five years £1 billion of lottery and Exchequer funding will be invested to ensure that young people are regularly playing sport and continuing their participation in sport into their adult life. This investment has been made available through the Government's lottery reforms that have resulted in more lottery money going to sport.

We are seeking consistent increases in the proportion of people regularly playing sport and, in particular, we want to raise the number of 14 to 25 year olds who take up sport as a habit for life.

We will do this, in partnership with Sport England, by building a lasting legacy of competitive sport in schools through the school games; improving links between community sports clubs and schools, further education colleges and universities—with the five biggest sports (football, rugby league, rugby union, cricket and tennis) leading the way; working with the sports national governing bodies (NGBs) and ensuring that they focus their funding on activities that promote sport as a habit for life among young people; putting significant investment into new and upgraded sports facilities, including funding schools to enable them to open up their sports facilities to the public; and working with local authorities, voluntary and community groups and clubs to make the broadest possible sporting offer to young people.

We will institute a new performance management regime, with a strict payment-by-results system. For sports that do not deliver on their ambitions, funding will be withdrawn; for those that are delivering well, they will be able to access more funds in order to expand their good work. Value for money will be a key consideration and NGBs will need to demonstrate how they will have an impact on participation at the local level. NGBs must also meet high standards of governance and financial control. All public funding allocated will be published and meet Government transparency guidelines.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Falkland Islands

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** I would like to update the House on the British Government's response to statements made in south America regarding the Falkland Islands during the Christmas recess.

On 15 December the Government of Uruguay declared that they would deny access to their ports to ships flying the Falklands flag. This was followed five days later by a statement from the summit of the Mercosur group of countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, with associate members including Chile) that echoed the Uruguayan announcement.

Our response has been justifiably robust. The Uruguayan ambassador was formally summoned to the FCO and I spoke twice to the Uruguayan Foreign Minister to underline how seriously we regard this development. Our ambassadors in the region were instructed to call on their host Governments to express our strong objection to the Mercosur statement and to assess the practical implications for vessels operating between the Falklands and south America.

We made it clear that the decision to close ports to ships flying the Falklands flag has no legal basis, and that it would be unacceptable and unbecoming for any Latin American democracy to collaborate in Argentina's attempts to economically blockade the Falkland Islands. We reiterated our strong support for the rights of the islanders to determine their political future, and also made clear that any attempts to coerce them through economic or other pressures would be resisted by the British Government. Such actions are inconsistent with the principles of the United Nations charter and the rights of the Falkland Islands people to trade openly and without hindrance.

While we do not accept that the decision to refuse entry to vessels flying the Falklands flag has any basis in international law, our priority has been to ensure that the trade and commercial links between the Falklands and south America are not compromised by this political declaration. We have had productive and honest discussions with Uruguay, Chile and Brazil. All three countries have said that they have no intention of participating in an economic blockade of the Falkland Islands and that all Falklands-related commercial shipping will continue to enjoy access to their ports, in accordance with domestic and international law, if they are flying the red ensign or another national flag when docked.

I hope that others in the region will continue to recognise that differences of opinion over UK sovereignty of the Falkland Islands can not justify collusion in efforts to intimidate an innocent civilian population through economic pressure. The British Government will always ensure that the Falkland Islanders' right to determine their political future is respected.

More broadly, we will continue to strengthen our engagement of Latin America, as I set out in my Canning House speech in November 2010. The UK has considerable political, economic and security interests in the region, with high potential for future economic growth through partnership with Latin America. I am confident that this important agenda is consistent, and indeed mutually reinforcing, with our desire to ensure that the interests and wishes of the Falkland Islanders are protected.

## HEALTH

### NHS Future Forum

**The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley):** The Department of Health commissioned the independent NHS Future Forum in the summer to conduct a second listening exercise on a series of key issues for health and care. The NHS Future Forum submitted its report to the Department on 20 December and it has been published today. The report contains a series of recommendations for Government and for key bodies in the system in the areas of:

integration;

information;

the NHS's role in improving the public's health; and

education and training.

The Department is pleased to be able to accept all the forum's recommendations for Government and has today published its response to the report.

Also published today is "Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce, From Design to Delivery", which sets out the Government's policy for a new education and training system, and details how the Government are addressing the forum's recommendations on education and training.

All documents published have been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

### PIP Silicone Gel Breast Implants

**The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley):** Approximately 40,000 women in the UK have had implants manufactured by the French manufacturer Poly Implant Prothèse (PIP). These implants were made of a non-medical grade silicone gel, which was withdrawn from use across Europe on 30 March 2010 following investigations at the PIP plant in France.

The recommendation of the French Government on 23 December that these should be removed has caused understandable worry for women affected. My primary concern is for safety and well-being, which is why I asked the NHS medical director, Sir Bruce Keogh to convene an expert advisory group to review the available data on PIP implants.

My Department published the interim report of the expert advisory group on Friday 6 January 2012. It also published a letter from the NHS chief executive, Sir David Nicholson, to the chief executives of all NHS bodies and from the chief medical officer, Dame Sally Davies, to all general practitioners and other relevant health professionals.

Taken together, these documents provide authoritative advice to women and clinical professionals about the risks associated with PIP implants. The expert advisory group concluded that there is not enough evidence to recommend routine explantation of the implants, although they also recognised this is a worrying time for women with PIP implants. The documents therefore set out the model of care to be provided to NHS patients, and the expectation that the private sector would follow suit.

These documents have been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. I will keep the House updated.

## JUSTICE

### Legal Services Board and Office for Legal Complaints Triennial Reviews

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly):** In March 2011 the Government responded to the Public Accounts Committee report "Smaller Government: Shrinking the Quango state" setting out the coalition's plans for reforming the public bodies sector. It includes the requirement to undertake triennial reviews of executive and advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

The Legal Services Act 2007 established the Legal Services Board (LSB) as the oversight regulator for the legal profession and the Office for Legal Complaints (OLC), to administer a new, independent and fair ombudsman scheme for service complaints against authorised persons. The LSB and the OLC were established in January 2009 and July 2009 respectively.

To deliver the coalition Government's commitment to transparency and accountability the LSB and the OLC will be subject to individual, but linked triennial reviews. The Ministry of Justice, as the sponsoring Department, has today launched a consultation which will last for a period of 12 weeks inviting views. In line with Cabinet Office guidance the reviews will consider the following for each body:

the continuing need for the LSB and the OLC—both their functions and their form; and

where it is agreed that either or both should remain, to review the control and governance arrangements in place to ensure that the public body is complying with recognised principles of good corporate governance.

In conducting the triennial reviews, officials will be engaging with a broad range of stakeholders and users of both bodies. The reviews will be aligned with guidance published by the Cabinet Office: "Guidance on Reviews of Non-Departmental Public Bodies". The final reports and findings will be laid in this House.

## TRANSPORT

### Blue Badge Improvement Service

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker):** I am today providing an update on implementation of the blue badge reform programme that I announced in February 2011.

One of the key reforms to the blue badge scheme is the blue badge improvement service. This service has been developed in close consultation with disabled people and local authorities. It is a major initiative aimed at tackling rising levels of badge fraud and abuse, helping to ensure that disabled people receive improved customer service and ensuring that the scheme remains sustainable in the long term for those who rely on it most.

The blue badge improvement service became operational on 1 January 2012. I am pleased to say that every local authority in England has signed up to use the service and I would like to thank them all for their support in helping to deliver important and necessary changes that are vital for the future sustainable operation of the blue badge scheme. The service should also help them to realise efficiency savings of up to £20 million per year.

In an innovative move by the Department for Transport, the capital costs of the service are being met through private sector investment from Northgate Information Solutions who will deliver the secure web-based service, and Payne Security who will print, supply and distribute the newly designed badge.

The service establishes a common store of key information on badges and badge holders that will enable verification checks to be made quickly and easily.

To counter fraud, the design of the blue badge was changed in regulations that came into force on 1 December 2011. The old-style cardboard badges have been replaced by new ones made from a fused and bonded hard plastic material and which contain a number of overt and covert security features.

For the first time, people can now apply for a blue badge using a national system that is available on Directgov. This should result in a quicker turnaround time for people re-applying for badges whose circumstances are not going to change. Those who use the online application form will only be asked to complete those sections that are relevant to the eligibility under which they are applying. They can also sign up for text and email reminders at re-application time, track the progress of their application and there will be an eligibility checker for those who want to find out if they are eligible for a badge. From 1 April 2012, badge holders will be able to report lost and stolen badges and update changes to their details online.

There is a new national helpline for general enquiries about blue badges that will signpost callers to the relevant local authority. However, local authorities will still be in charge of administering the blue badge scheme, making decisions about whether applicants are eligible and issuing badges.

## High Speed Rail

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening):** The consultation "High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future" was one of the largest national consultations ever undertaken by the Department for Transport. A total of 54,909 responses were received, from individuals, businesses and organisations across the country. It is clear from the consultation that a national high speed rail network—High Speed 2—generates strong feelings, both in favour and against the scheme.

Since becoming Secretary of State for Transport I have taken time to consider all aspects of the consultation proposals and the evidence arising from both consultation responses and further work undertaken or commissioned by my Department and HS2 Ltd. This statement summarises my decisions.

I have decided Britain should embark upon the most significant transport infrastructure project since the building of the motorways by supporting the development and delivery of a new national high speed rail network. By following in the footsteps of the 19th century railway pioneers, the Government are signalling their commitment to providing 21st century infrastructure and connections—laying the groundwork for long-term, sustainable economic growth.

High Speed 2 (HS2) is a scheme to deliver hugely enhanced rail capacity and connectivity between Britain's major conurbations. It is the largest transport infrastructure investment in the UK for a generation, and, with the exception of High Speed 1 (HSl), is the first major new railway line since the Victorian era.

The HS2 Y network will provide direct, high capacity, high speed links between London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester, with intermediate stations in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire. There will also be direct links to Heathrow Airport and to the continent via the HSl line. It will form a foundation for a potentially wider high speed network in years to come.

HS2 will be built in two phases to ensure that the benefits of high speed rail are realised at the earliest possible opportunity. The line from London to the West Midlands and the connection to HSl are expected to open in 2026, followed, in 2032-33, by the onward legs to Manchester and Leeds and the connection to Heathrow. The capital cost at 2011 prices of building the complete Y network is £32.7 billion. At present values, it will generate benefits of up to £47 billion and fare revenues of up to £34 billion over a 60-year period.

The benefits of HS2 will extend beyond the network itself; links to current lines will enable direct trains to run to cities such as Liverpool, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh and, with long-distance services transferring to the new network, space will be freed up for new commuter, regional and freight services on other lines, opening up new opportunities for Britain's existing railways. Links to key urban transport networks, such as Crossrail, will help to spread the benefits further still.

HS2 is entirely consistent with the Government's objectives for carbon emissions. Electrified rail is a comparatively low-carbon mode of transport, especially with the continued decarbonisation of the grid. Speed increases power consumption, but also makes HS2 more attractive to those currently flying or driving. The faster journeys on HS2—Edinburgh and Glasgow will be just 3.5 hours from London—could transfer around 4.5 million journeys per year who might otherwise have travelled by air and 9 million from the roads. HS2 will also create more rail capacity on existing conventional speed lines for freight—removing lorries from our busy trunk roads. HS2 is therefore an important part of transport's low-carbon future.

In securing these benefits for our country, I am committed to developing a network with the lowest feasible impacts on local communities and the natural environment. I have been mindful that we must safeguard the natural environment as far as possible, both for the benefit of those enjoying our beautiful countryside today and for future generations.

People living along the line of route highlighted particular concerns and provided constructive and thoughtful comments about the London to West Midlands route proposed at consultation. Following careful study by my engineers I can announce a package of alterations to further reduce the route's impacts. The changes mean that more than half the route will now be mitigated by tunnel or cutting and there will also be a reduction in the impacts on people and communities, ancient woodlands and important heritage sites.

The changes include:

> A longer, continuous tunnel from Little Missenden to the M25 through the Chilterns;
>
> A new 2.75 mile (4.4 km) bored tunnel along the Northolt corridor to entirely avoid major works to the Chilterns line and impacts on local communities in the Ruislip area;
>
> A longer green tunnel past Chipping Warden and Aston le Walls, and to curve the route to avoid a cluster of important heritage sites around Edgcote; and,
>
> A longer green tunnel to significantly reduce impacts around Wendover, and an extension to the green tunnel at South Heath.

The revised route offers considerable improvements to communities, with the number of dwellings at risk of land take almost halving and the number experiencing increased noise levels reducing by a third. Despite these improvements to limit the negative impacts of the line, HS2 will inevitably affect some homeowners, communities and businesses. To help those affected, we will bring in a package of measures, which are over and above what affected homeowners are already entitled to under law. These include:

A streamlined purchase scheme to simplify the statutory blight process for property owners;

A sale and rent back scheme to give homeowners within the safeguarded area more flexibility;

A streamlined small claims scheme for construction damage which will allow individuals and businesses who are entitled to compensation under existing law to claim it more quickly and simply;

A package of measures to reinforce confidence in properties above tunnels. Homeowners will be offered before and after surveys, a thorough assessment of the impact of similar tunnels, an explanation of the measures that will be taken to prevent perceptible vibration impacts, financial compensation for the compulsory purchase of subsoil, and a legally binding promise that HS2 will be permanently responsible for resolving any related settlement or subsidence issues; and,

A refreshed hardship-based property purchase scheme.

Finally, we will work constructively with local authorities along the line of route to minimise the negative consequences of HS2 and maximise the benefits.

In November I announced the triennial review of HS2 Ltd, and in making my decision I have accepted the finding that HS2 Ltd is the appropriate body to continue undertaking this work.

Today I have presented to Parliament a full account of my decisions titled "High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future—Decisions and Next Steps". My Department has published a series of supporting documents which set out in further detail the basis on which I have reached my decisions. All of this material is available at: www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 11 January 2012*

## TREASURY

### Equitable Life Payment Scheme

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban):** The Treasury can confirm that the Equitable Life payment scheme is making high volumes of automated payments—10,000 this week alone.

The Equitable Life payment scheme is due to make in the region of £1.5 billion worth of payments. This represents a significant logistical exercise, which requires complex systems to be established to not only make payments but also respond to the resultant policyholder queries. The Government met their commitment to start making payments by the middle of last year and high volumes of automated payments are now being made.

Many thousands of payments a week are being made and the volume will continue to be ramped up. This means that over the coming months hundreds of thousands more eligible policyholders will receive their payment from the scheme. These payments will be made in accordance with the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Equitable Life payments. The Treasury has also confirmed that the first payments to with-profits annuitants have also commenced, and over 3,000 annuitants have already had their first payment issued.

The scheme is making good progress in paying out the £500 million provided for this financial year by the 2010 spending review, and as part of the Government's commitment to transparency, the scheme will be publishing a more detailed report on the scheme to date. This report will be made available via the scheme's website in the coming weeks.

Eligible policyholders that have not received payment yet need not do anything—the scheme has policyholders' details from Equitable Life and the Prudential and will contact all the eligible policyholders it can by June 2012 at the latest.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Social Housing

**The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps):** I announced in the Government's housing strategy my intention to tackle social housing fraud and I am today launching a consultation that sets out my proposals in this area. These proposals would increase the deterrent to tenants considering cheating the system, enable those who do to be detected more easily and punished more severely, and encourage social landlords to take a more proactive approach to tackling tenancy fraud. This would free up valuable social homes that can then be allocated to those in greatest need.

There is a clear case for reform. Social housing is an enormously valuable national asset, providing essential support for millions: yet while there are over 1.8 million households on social housing waiting lists, estimates of the number of social homes in England being unlawfully occupied range from 50,000 to 160,000. The National Fraud Authority estimates that tenancy fraud costs £900 million per year. Replacing these unlawfully occupied social homes—to house those who have effectively been displaced by those who commit tenancy fraud—would cost several billion pounds.

Most forms of tenancy fraud are civil matters rather than criminal offences. This means that while abusing a social tenancy can be extremely lucrative, the consequences for those caught breaking the rules tend to be relatively minor—in most proven cases the legal tenant is simply required to give back the keys to a property in which they do not live. Existing legislation does not allow for a criminal prosecution for sub-letting or most other types of tenancy fraud.

In addition to the lack of an effective deterrent, tenancy fraud investigators argue that they do not have sufficient investigatory powers, meaning that they can only detect a fraction of the homes being unlawfully occupied. Recent Government investment has seen an increase in the number of social homes being recovered, but it is apparent that stronger measures need to be considered.

My proposals would introduce new legislation so that social tenants who abuse their tenancies could be subject to criminal sanctions with a maximum penalty of a £50,000 fine and two years' imprisonment. They would also allow for any profits made from tenancy fraud to be confiscated, a restitutionary payment to be made to the landlord, and would give local authorities the power to prosecute for matters related to tenancy fraud.

We are also proposing to remove the discretion a court has when it comes to evicting tenants of housing associations who have been proven to have sub-let the whole of their homes. This would bring housing association tenants into line with council tenants. I will also review the "intention to return" defence often used by tenants, which has meant that a tenant can live away from the property for a substantial period of time, sometimes years, and still maintain their tenancy by arguing in court that they intend to return to the home.

These proposals would be in addition to rather than in place of the existing powers social landlords have, and in my view are sensible and practical measures that would rectify the anomalous situation whereby the incentive to cheat the system is so much greater than both the risk of detection and the eventual penalty incurred.

## EDUCATION

### National Curriculum in England (Information and Communication Technology)

**The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove):** I am today announcing my intention to launch a public consultation on my proposal that the national curriculum programmes of study and associated attainment targets and assessment arrangements for information and communication technology (ICT) in maintained schools in England should not apply from September 2012.

There is a significant and growing base of evidence, not least from Ofsted inspections, that demonstrates that there are persistent problems with the quality and effectiveness of ICT education in schools. Evidence indicates that recent curriculum and qualifications reforms have not led to significant improvements in the teaching of ICT, and the number of students progressing to further study in ICT-related subjects is in decline. Furthermore, the ICT curriculum in its current form is viewed as dull and demotivating for pupils. Its teaching may not equip pupils adequately for further study and work, may leave them disenchanted or give rise to negative perceptions that turn them off the subject completely. At the same time we know that the demand for high-level technology skills is growing, and many employers in the IT industry are concerned that the way in which ICT is taught in schools is failing to inspire young people about the creative potential of ICT and the range of IT-related careers open to them.

However, we also know that ICT teaching in schools can be done well. There are numerous positive examples of schools that are leading the way in developing new and exciting visions for ICT, and of industry-led initiatives which are invigorating ICT teaching in schools. In order to facilitate more innovative ICT provision in schools, I am proposing to make provision under the 2002 Education Act to disapply the existing ICT programmes of study and attainment targets at all four key stages, and the associated statutory assessment arrangements at key stage 3, from September 2012.

Under this proposal ICT would remain a compulsory subject within the national curriculum, subject to the outcomes of the national curriculum review. However, schools would be freed of the requirement to adhere to the existing programmes of study, attainment targets and statutory assessment arrangements.

By disapplying the ICT programme of study from September this year schools will be able to offer a more creative and challenging curriculum, drawing on support and advice from those best positioned to judge what an ambitious and forward-looking curriculum should contain. I am encouraged by the work of subject organisations and others on how universities and business can develop high quality computer science qualifications. I am keen to explore how Government can continue to facilitate this.

If, having listened to the views expressed in the public consultation and subject to the will of the House, I decide to proceed with the proposed disapplication of the ICT programmes of study, attainment targets and assessment arrangements, it will represent an interim measure that will be effective from September 2012 until September 2014, when the outcomes of the national curriculum review will come into force. The status of ICT within the school curriculum is currently being considered by the national curriculum review alongside that of all other national curriculum subjects (aside from English, mathematics, science and PE), and I will bring forward proposals later this year.

The public consultation on this proposal will commence shortly and run for 12 weeks. A consultation document containing full details of this proposal and how interested parties can respond to the consultation will be published on the Department for Education website. Copies of that document will also be placed in the House Libraries.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Single Payment Scheme

**The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice):** As explained in my statement of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 12WS, one of the performance indicators I set the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for the 2011 single payment scheme (SPS) was to pay 78% of the total estimated fund value to a minimum of 86% of eligible claimants by the end of December 2011. I can now confirm to the House that those figures were reached and exceeded.

By the end of 31 December 2011, RPA had made payments totalling some £1.427 billion (82.5%) to 92,066 English farmers (87.8%). These figures represent the highest ever proportion of SPS payments made by the agency in the opening month of the payment window. As such, it is a good example of the progress being made at RPA as it strives to deliver an improved level of service for English farmers in its administration of the scheme.

The focus now is on validating the remaining claims and making the related payments as soon as possible. I expect further progress in that regard over January, with a view to ensuring that the second SPS 2011 performance indicator (to have paid a minimum of 95% of both the eligible claimants and the total estimated value by the end of March 2012) is also met.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 12 January 2012*

## TREASURY

### Anti-avoidance

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke):** The Government are committed to tackling tax avoidance to ensure the Exchequer is protected and fairness is maintained for the taxpayer.

HMRC has recently become aware of a contrived and aggressive avoidance scheme that seeks to generate post-cessation trade relief for set-off by users of the scheme against their other income or capital gains. This scheme relies on arrangements that have a tax avoidance purpose. The Government do not accept that these arrangements have the effect that is sought, but to remove any doubt, and to prevent scheme providers continuing to devise and operate even more contrived schemes, prompt and decisive action is being taken to protect the Exchequer.

I am today announcing that legislation will be introduced in Finance Bill 2012 to prevent post-cessation trade relief being given where a qualifying payment or qualifying event arises from arrangements entered into in which the main purpose, or one of the main purposes, is to obtain a tax reduction. The legislation will have effect from today and will protect significant amounts of revenue.

We have acted quickly to prevent the use of this particular scheme and we will not hesitate to close down other schemes representing a significant risk to the Exchequer as we become aware of them.

Draft legislation and further details of this measure are being published on HMRC's website today.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Further Education Skills Funding

**The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes):** Following publication of the annual skills investment statement for the 2012-13 academic year by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills on 1 December 2011, the Skills Funding Agency issued 1,030 initial funding allocation statements, announcing recurrent funding allocations to FE colleges and other skills providers in England, on 16 December.

The allocations in question total £2.3 billion, which includes the largest ever allocation of funding to support apprenticeships.

Some providers will be able to access additional funds not included in the initial funding statement. These include initial additional learner support and discretionary learner support allocations, which will be issued on 27 January 2012. Initial 16 to 18 apprenticeships programme allocations and adult safeguarded allocations have also still to be issued.

Final funding statements for all budget lines for 2012-13 will be issued on 30 March 2012.

The Skills Funding Agency and the Young People's Learning Agency will monitor the impact of funding allocations.

Capital funding allocations for the £100 million two-year FE college capital investment programme, which I announced in August 2011, were confirmed by the Skills Funding Agency on 21 December.

All FE colleges in England were eligible to apply for capital renewal grant funding, which they could spend on urgent capital works, or on the fees associated with developing enhanced renewal grant applications.

A total of 244 FE colleges across England were each successful in securing up to £100,000 in renewal grant funding. In addition, 46 of these were also successful in securing enhanced renewal grant funding of around £1.9 million, taking their total grant funding up to £2 million.

A further 19 colleges met the required quality thresholds but could not be funded on this occasion. I have asked officials of the Skills Funding Agency to continue to work with the colleges concerned to consider how these projects might be helped to proceed.

This latest programme builds upon the Government's previous FE capital investments, including the £50 million college capital investment programme which provided 154 eligible colleges with a renewal grant of up to £225,000 each. Of these, 21 also secured enhanced renewal grant funding of up to £775,000 taking their total funding to £1 million.

The programme also builds upon the additional £25 million that we made available to 239 eligible FE colleges through the capital works grant.

The grand total of Government's capital investment through these programmes of £175 million is expected to leverage over £525 million in total project funding.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Red Tape Challenge

**The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps):** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Baroness Hanham, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> I would like to inform the House that the Government are launching the housing and construction theme on the Cabinet Office's red tape challenge website. The theme will include housing and construction related regulations and consider whether excessive or complicated legislation is a barrier to reinvigorating housing and construction in this country.
>
> This review should be taken in context of the policies and measures announced in November's housing strategy. That strategy outlines how the Government are committed to better environmental standards; more affordable housing; security of tenure; legal protection for tenants and leaseholders; and support for the elderly, vulnerable households and those on low incomes.

We have already taken a series of steps to cut unnecessary red tape, including abolishing home information packs, reducing burdens on short-term holiday lets, removing blanket regulation on houses of multiple occupation that would have reduced choice for tenants, and introduced new freedoms and flexibilities for social landlords via the Localism Act. This review will help inform the scope for farther reductions of such unnecessary and disproportionate red tape.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Taxation in Gibraltar (European Court Judgment)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** On 15 November 2011 the Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) published its judgment in appeal cases brought by the European Commission and Spain against the United Kingdom and the Government of Gibraltar on the issue of whether corporation tax changes proposed by the Government of Gibraltar in 2002 breached EU rules on state aid. In this judgment the ECJ has set aside the earlier judgment of the General Court of the European Union (General Court) dated 18 December 2008 and has found that the proposed tax regime, which was abandoned some time ago and was never implemented in Gibraltar, constituted state aid on grounds of material selectivity.

The background to this case is that in August 2002 the UK notified the Commission, pursuant to article 88(3) of the then EC treaty (now article 108(3) TfEU), that Gibraltar proposed to make changes to its tax system that would involve the introduction of a payroll tax and a business property occupation tax (BPOT). The Commission's decision of March 2004 found that the payroll tax and BPOT were materially selective because they would inherently favour offshore companies that had no physical presence in Gibraltar and which, as a consequence, would not incur corporation tax. The Commission also found that the proposed changes to Gibraltar's tax system were regionally selective on the grounds that they provided for a system under which companies in Gibraltar would be taxed, in general, at a lower rate than those in the UK.

The UK and the Government of Gibraltar both contested the Commission's decision in respect of both material and regional selectivity. On 18 December 2008 the Court of First Instance (now the General Court) annulled the Commission's decision. The General Court found that Gibraltar's tax proposals did not breach EU rules on state aid on grounds of material selectivity. Moreover the General Court ruled that the frame of reference for assessing whether Gibraltar's proposals were regionally selective corresponded exclusively to Gibraltar's territorial limits. The General Court therefore upheld, under EU law, Gibraltar's freedom to set tax rates that are different from those in the UK.

The Commission and Spain both brought appeal actions asking the ECJ to set aside the General Court's judgment. The Commission's single ground of appeal was on the question of material selectivity. Spain appealed on both regional and material selectivity. The ECJ's judgment of 15 November 2011 is the final ruling in these proceedings. The ECJ found that Gibraltar's tax proposals were materially selective in that they granted selective advantages to offshore companies. It held that in view of its finding on material selectivity it was not relevant to examine whether Gibraltar's proposals were regionally selective.

The ECJ's decision not to examine the issue of regional selectivity means that there has been no change in the principles established by the Court in the Azores case (ECJ case C-88/03 *Portugal v Commission*). According to those principles autonomous regional bodies within an EU member state may set lower levels of tax than in the rest of the member state without giving rise to state aid provided that certain criteria for determining the autonomous status of the regional body are met. In accordance with its constitutional arrangements, Gibraltar is a fiscally autonomous entity with responsibility for the management of its economy, including taxation, vested in the Government of Gibraltar. The UK is committed to upholding the Gibraltar constitution. The ECJ's judgment of 15 November 2011 does not change Gibraltar's constitutional relationship with the UK or Gibraltar's freedom to set a tax regime that differs from the UK's.

It is for the Government of Gibraltar, as the authority responsible for the tax system in Gibraltar, to consider the implications for Gibraltar of the ECJ's ruling on material selectivity.

On 15 November 2011 the then Government of Gibraltar issued a statement which stated that the judgment would have no adverse impact on Gibraltar since the proposed tax scheme that was examined by the ECJ had never been implemented and the proposal had since been abandoned in favour of an income tax of 10% for all companies. The new Government of Gibraltar takes the same view.

The Government will keep the House informed of any further significant developments.

### Sri Lankan Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission Report

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alistair Burt):** I would like to inform the House of the Government's views on the Sri Lankan Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's (LLRC) report, which was published on 16 December 2011. The LLRC was established in May 2010 to look into the conflict between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The British Government welcome the fact that the LLRC report has been published in full. We have read the report closely and have considered in particular its findings relating to: reconciliation and an enduring political solution in the north and east; accountability for alleged war crimes committed during the conflict; and ongoing human rights issues in Sri Lanka.

We have noted the Sri Lankan Government's initial response to the report. We have also seen statements from political parties in Sri Lanka, from respected human rights organisations and from other Governments.

The British Government believe that the report contains many constructive recommendations for action on post-conflict reconciliation and a political settlement. Implementation of these recommendations, however, is the real test of Sri Lanka's progress.

We note the commission's conclusion that the root cause of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka lies in the failure of successive Governments to address the genuine grievances of the Tamil people and the recommendation that the Sri Lankan Government should take the lead in delivering a devolution package. We urge the Sri Lankan Government to implement quickly this recommendation and the LLRC's call for the Northern Province to be returned to civilian administration. We note the Sri Lankan Government's recent assurance that they will ensure the withdrawal of security forces from all aspects of community life and restrict their role exclusively to security matters.

We agree with the recommendation that more action be taken to help internally displaced persons rebuild their lives. We also agree that the Government should make available to relatives a list of all detainees in custody since the end of the conflict; publicly declare all detention sites; and allow family, judicial and International Committee of the Red Cross access. We support the call for anyone responsible for unlawful detentions to be prosecuted.

The British Government are, on the whole, disappointed by the report's findings and recommendations on accountability. Like many others, we feel that these leave many gaps and unanswered questions. We welcome the acknowledgement that "considerable civilian casualties" occurred during the final stages of the conflict and the recommendation that specific incidents require further investigation. But we note that many credible allegations of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, including from the UN panel of experts report, are either not addressed or only partially answered. We believe that video footage, authenticated by UN special rapporteurs, should inform substantive, not just technical, investigations into apparent grave abuses.

The British Government believe that the report's recommendations on ongoing human rights issues in Sri Lanka are well founded. We hope they will be implemented vigorously. We welcome especially the focus on tackling attacks on media freedom and disappearances —including thousands of outstanding cases.

We encourage the Sri Lankan Government to move quickly to implement the LLRC report's recommendations. Some recommendations could be completed in a matter of months. Others may take time to implement fully, but initial steps can be taken now. Ultimately, the success or failure of the LLRC will be judged on the Sri Lankan Government's implementation of its recommendations.

On accountability, implementing the report's recommendations would represent a useful first step. But we continue to believe it is important that an independent, credible and thorough mechanism is put in place to investigate all allegations of grave abuses.

The British Government have consistently condemned terrorism in all its forms. The LTTE is a brutal and ruthless organisation which remains proscribed in the UK. Our long-term interest is in a stable, peaceful Sri Lanka, free from the scourge of terrorism, and as a fellow member of the Commonwealth, conforming to the standards and values which Commonwealth membership requires.

Sri Lanka's aim of achieving reconciliation amongst its people is one we value. It can be achieved through an honest acknowledgement of the past and processes, in which all parties take part, to ensure justice, reconciliation and political progress.

We remain committed to helping Sri Lanka achieve lasting peace and reconciliation and will work with international partners to this end, including with the assistance of relevant international organisations.

## HEALTH

### Health and Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Programme

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow):** In March 2011, I announced investment in the development of health and criminal justice liaison and diversion services of £5 million over the course of the year (2011-12). I am pleased to announce that investment in these services will be further increased to £19.4 million for 2012-13.

Liaison and diversion services aim to ensure that wherever offenders are in the criminal justice system, their health needs or vulnerabilities are identified and assessed and they are linked to appropriate treatment services. Information about their needs can then be provided to the police and courts to enable them to make informed decisions about charging and sentencing. Addressing their needs is also expected to contribute to a reduction in the likelihood of their reoffending. Liaison and diversion services will be accessible to all offenders— whether adult men or women, children and young people, and whether they have a mental health or substance misuse problem, learning disability or personality disorder.

Work over the past year has allowed us to set up a liaison and diversion network, consisting of 94 adult and youth pathfinder sites, alongside 10 police forces who are exploring the transfer of commissioning responsibility for health services in police custody suites to the NHS. These pathfinder sites are leading the way in developing how diversion services will work in the future, as well as understanding the costs and benefits they generate, to inform a decision about rolling out new services across the country.

Over the next three years, this network of sites will focus on developing an implementation plan which will include:

guidance on good practice;

quality standards and outcomes; and

work force development and training plan.

Increased investment will also allow selected pathfinder sites to test different elements of service provision, and will include looking at treatment-based options for sentencers as an alternative to custody for those with health needs or vulnerabilities. This testing work will be particularly important for developing a consistent service model and informing the set-up of the remainder of diversion services during roll-out.

The pathfinder sites are already providing information on their services which will contribute to the development of the business case (due for completion in early 2013), which will inform a ministerial decision on full roll out. We will also undertake a fuller evaluation to capture the best of local learning and explore options for making schemes available nationally by 2014. An evaluation of six existing youth justice liaison and diversion pilots has already taken place and the report from this work is due to be published early this year.

These services are integral to the delivery of the Government's vision for the rehabilitation of offenders, as well as the cross-Government strategy on improving mental health outcomes, both of which were published last year. Both the Department of Health and Ministry of Justice are committed to this work, as reflected in both departmental business plans, and are working together to deliver liaison and diversion services across the country by 2014.

## JUSTICE

### Compensation Act 2006

**The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke):** I am today laying before the House the Government's memorandum to the Justice Committee on post-legislative scrutiny of the Compensation Act 2006. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Compensation Act 2006 contains provisions relating to two separate and distinct areas: part 1 contains provisions restating and clarifying the law of negligence and breach of statutory duty, and provisions addressing a practical difficulty that had arisen in relation to proving liability for the asbestos-related disease of mesothelioma; and part 2 provides the framework for the regulation of claims management services.

These reforms have been implemented, in line with the stated objectives of the Act, as detailed in the memorandum.

## TRANSPORT

### Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning):** I am today publishing the responses to a public consultation which sought views on proposals to provide closer alignment of GB regulations with European rules.

The consultation was launched on 5 January 2010 in conjunction with a related consultation on electric personal vehicles (EPVs) and ran until 30 March 2010. The EAPC regulations were also included within the "Retail" and "Road Transportation" themes of the "Red Tape Challenge" which ran from 7 April to 17 June 2011.

The Department has considered the responses and supports recommendations to harmonise power limits (from 200 watts to 250 watts) with similar provisions in place across the EU—allowing consumers access to a wider range of electrically assisted cycles.

Regulatory proposals will be developed to update power limits and consider other amendments, for example on weight limits, once EU discussions on a much wider group of two, three and light four-wheeled vehicles conclude. The outcome of EU discussions could have implications for the regulation of EAPCs, and it would therefore be unhelpful to make amendments at this time which might need to be subsequently repealed.

A detailed summary of the responses to the consultation will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2010-02

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Welfare Reform Bill

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling):** The Department for Work and Pensions has obtained approval for a second advance from the Contingencies Fund of £3.737 million to allow for the continuance of work related to the introduction of employment and support allowance (ESA) time-limiting and the abolition of ESA youth, including the development of IT, before Royal Assent. This is a second advance, required as there is now greater clarity around the date for Royal Assent now that the Welfare Reform Bill has reached Report stage in the Lords. In September 2011, I informed Parliament of a £2.705 million advance for the same purpose.

This second advance will allow the ESA time-limiting and abolition of youth project to continue to work to its current design and development timetable and enable continuity of third-party supplier engagement. Subject to Royal Assent, this will enable the change to be introduced from 30 April 2012. This will bring ESA more in line with other contributory benefit regimes. It will also simplify the rules governing ESA, making it easier to administer and preparing the way for the introduction of universal credit.

Parliamentary approval for resources of £3,737,000 for this new service has been sought in the main estimate 2011-12, but is subject to the approval of the Welfare Reform Bill. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure of £3,737,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

### Welfare Reform Bill

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling):** The Department for Work and Pensions has obtained approval for an advance, prior to Royal Assent, from the Contingency Fund of £1,000,000 . The funding will allow for the development of the IT changes required to introduce new benefit fraud and claimant error sanctions.

A tougher fraud and error regime was set out in the "Tackling fraud and error in the benefit and tax credit systems" strategy published in October 2010 and changes to sanctions and penalties are included in the Welfare Reform Bill. They provide for the introduction of a civil penalty for claimant error and strengthen sanctions for benefit fraudsters. To enable their introduction changes to the Departments' IT systems will be required. The contingency advance will enable the IT provider to begin work in January 2012 giving them sufficient lead in time to commence changes in 2012.

The advance from the Contingency Fund will allow essential work to commence on the detailed process design and IT changes.

Parliamentary approval for resources and capital off 1,000,000 for this new service has already been sought in the main estimate for the Department for Work and Pensions, subject to the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill. Pending approval of that Bill, urgent expenditure estimated at off 1,000,000 will be met by a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund.

### Welfare Reform Bill

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling):** On 22 December 2011 the Scottish Parliament voted on a legislative consent motion to the Welfare Reform Bill which is currently at Report stage in the House of Lords. Although social security is a reserved matter, legislative consent is required from the devolved Administrations for a number of aspects of the Bill.

Legislative consent was given, where required, in respect of the provisions in the Bill relating to data sharing, industrial injuries disablement benefit and the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. However, it did not provide consent in respect of the provisions in the Bill which give Scottish Ministers the power to make consequential, supplementary, incidental or transitional provisions, by regulations, in relation to the introduction of universal credit and personal independence payment. The Scottish Government have opted to bring forward legislation in their own Parliament in due course to make the required changes.

Therefore, in order to ensure the UK Government adhere to the principles of the Sewel convention, they will bring forward amendments at Third Reading of the Welfare Reform Bill to remove the relevant provisions from the Bill.

These amendments will not affect the implementation of either universal credit or personal independence payment.

Noble Lords will be given an opportunity to consider these amendments further at Third Reading.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 16 January 2012*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Local Democracy

**The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark):** On 1 November 2011 the Government launched a consultation, "What can a mayor do for your city?", asking local communities to contribute their views on the powers that directly elected mayors should be able to exercise in the 12 largest English cities outside London—Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Coventry, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Sheffield and Wakefield.

That consultation concluded on 3 January 2012, and I am today announcing our response.

In our consultation, we proposed that rather than seeking to impose a "one size fits all" approach, there should be a bespoke approach. Section 15 of the Localism Act provides for powers to be devolved to authorities subject to the approval of Parliament. Where a mayor is elected we would expect that mayor to come forward with his or her own request for the powers they seek to take.

In parallel with this consultation we have begun to negotiate with cities and their local enterprise partnerships bespoke city deals to support economic growth in their area.

The responses we have received to our consultation reinforce the view we have taken that a bespoke city-by-city approach to the decentralisation of powers is the right way forward.

Accordingly, where any mayors are elected in the 12 cities we will continue the bespoke approach to devolving powers that we are already pursuing in the context of city deals, but with the mayors themselves having an important role in the process of decentralising powers.

I have today placed in the Library of the House, copies of the Government's response to its consultation paper "What can a mayor do for your city?"

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Ministerial Visits (Burma)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** I would like to update the House on my visit to Burma on 5-6 January.

This was an historic visit; the first by a British Foreign Secretary since 1955. It was an opportunity to show that we recognise the efforts of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the Government to drive forward important reforms. I also wanted to set out clearly to the Government the changes that we would want to see before we could support lifting EU sanctions.

I met the President, the Foreign Minister and the Speaker of the Lower House. I welcomed progress made so far, including the dialogue between the Government and Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the changes in the law that allowed her party to register for the forthcoming by-elections, the initial releases of political prisoners, and the moves towards greater media freedom. I informed them of the allocation from the Department for International Development of £10 million of existing aid for microfinance for the Burmese people, and announced an additional £2 million of humanitarian aid to benefit people in Kachin State, the site of some of the worst ethnic conflict.

I set out clearly with all my interlocutors the steps which would be needed before a more fundamental shift in our relationship could take place. These are: the release of all political prisoners in time for the by-elections on 1 April; the free and fair conduct of those by-elections; and humanitarian access to conflict areas, particularly in Kachin State, alongside a clear process of reconciliation. I made it clear that if these three conditions were met the UK would support the easing of the EU sanctions.

I was assured by the President that the reforms would continue, that further political prisoner releases would go ahead, and that by-elections would be free and fair. He was confident that the Burmese Government would soon achieve ceasefires nationwide, and acknowledged the need for humanitarian assistance in conflict areas.

I raised with the Foreign Minister the discrimination suffered by the Rohingya community, who have been denied citizenship and access to basic services and rights. We will continue to press the Burmese Government on this issue.

I held two meetings with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and assured her of the UK's continued support for her efforts to promote reform and democracy in Burma. She repeated her core priorities: the release of all political prisoners and an improvement in the rule of law; and the need for the by-elections to be free and fair as well as progress on the complex ethnic situation.

I met representatives from other opposition groups, including the 88 Generation leaders and former political prisoners. I also met a range of representatives from ethnic communities, including the Kachin, Rohingya, Shan, Rakhine, Chin, Mon, Karen and Karenni to hear more about their concerns and aspirations. We will continue to stay close to these and other ethnic groups to ensure we remain seized of the issues they face.

I am delighted to say that following my visit, there have been significant further developments on some of the issues I raised with the Government.

On 12 January, the Government and the Karen National Union signed a ceasefire after 63 years of conflict. There is still a long way to go to rebuild fully trust between the parties, but this is an important step in the right direction.

I also warmly welcome the release of a significant number of political prisoners on 13 January. Exact numbers are still being verified but those released include Generation 88 and ethnic leaders. This is another positive step on the road to reform in Burma.

The British Government will continue to follow developments in Burma closely. We will support progress, while remaining vigilant on human rights issues, especially in areas affected by ethnic conflict.

### Visa Applications in Iran (Correction)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alistair Burt):** I would like to correct an answer I gave during a Westminster Hall debate to the hon. Member for Islington North (Jeremy Corbyn), *Official Report*, 11 January 2012, column 129WH, who asked to which embassy in Iran should a family of Iranian origin living in Britain who wants to invite a family member to an occasion here, or the other way round, address its inquiries. We regret that the closure of our embassy means that Iranians will now have to travel to another country to obtain a visa for the UK. We remain committed to engaging with the Iranian people, even though we do not have an embassy in Tehran. But our visa centres in UAE and Turkey will be open for Iranians, and we continue to welcome applicants. Iranian nationals wishing to submit an application for a visit visa only can do so at any visa application centre worldwide. Iranian nationals may submit applications for all visa categories in the UAE, at Abu Dhabi or Dubai, and in Turkey at Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Bursa or Gaziantep. All applications must still be submitted online and attendance at the visa application centres remains by pre-booked online appointment only. More information on this can be found on the UK Border Agency's website. Those wishing to travel to Iran should contact the nearest Iranian embassy for advice.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Police (Financial Management Code of Practice)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** I am today presenting to Parliament a revised financial management code of practice for the police service in England and Wales to reflect the Government's reform of policing through the introduction of police and crime commissioners. The code provides clarity around the financial governance arrangements within the police service in England and Wales and builds on the policing protocol issued by means of the Policing Protocol Order 2011. Copies of the code of practice are available from the Vote Office.

This code is issued under section 17 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and section 39A of the Police Act 1996, which permit the Secretary of State to issue codes of practice to police and crime commissioners ("PCCs") and the Mayor's office for policing and crime ("MOPC"), chief constables and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. As set out in section 17(4) of the 2011 Act and section 39A(7) of the 1996 Act, PCCs, the MOPC, chief constables and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner must have regard to this code in carrying out their functions.

This new code will apply to the MOPC and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner from today. The existing financial management code of practice for the police service in England and Wales, issued under section 39 of the Police Act 1996 and presented to Parliament on 24 October 2000, will continue to apply to police authorities outside London until their replacement by PCCs on 22 November 2012. From that date, this new code will apply to PCCs and chief constables.

## JUSTICE

### The Detainee Inquiry

**The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke):** On 12 January 2012 the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Metropolitan Police Service issued a joint statement on the outcome of two investigations into members of the Security Service and Secret Intelligence Service. They also announced that allegations made in two specific cases concerning the alleged rendition of named individuals to Libya and the alleged ill-treatment of them in Libya were so serious that it is in the public interest for them to be investigated now rather than at the conclusion of the Detainee Inquiry.

The Government stand firmly against torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. We do not condone it, nor do we ask others to do it on our behalf. We have always been clear that the Detainee Inquiry will not be able to start formally until all related police investigations have been concluded. We will need to consider the implications of the joint DPP and MPS statement, in consultation with Sir Peter Gibson, the inquiry chair, and will make a further statement in due course. We remain committed to drawing a line under these issues.

## TRANSPORT

### Ministerial Cars

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening):** I am publishing today details of the cost to Departments of Government cars provided to Ministers by the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) during the year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

Spend for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 was £3.8 million. This includes £0.7 million of spend during the previous Administration. In 2009-10 the spend was £6.7 million. This represents a 44% reduction in the amount Departments spent on the ministerial car service compared to the previous financial year.

Costs from 1 April to 12 May 2010 relate to the previous Administration.

From 12 May 2010, the costs incurred by non-Cabinet Ministers, while new arrangements for a ministerial car pool were introduced, include unavoidable costs associated with contractual termination notice periods. To reduce the cost of the Government car service to taxpayers, the ministerial car pool was introduced in September 2010 and, from that date, replaced the allocated service for non-Cabinet Ministers in line with the ministerial code published in May 2010.

The second table highlights the reduction in the number of Ministers who have access to a GCDA allocated car and driver. The number has reduced from 78 to 13.

*Departmental Spend with the GCDA*

| *Department* | *1 April 2009- 31 March 2010 Total:* | *1 April 2010- 12 May 2010 Total:* | *13 May 2010- 31 March 2011 Total:* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cabinet Office | £362,790.25 | £23,798.89 | £138,536.33 |
| Department for Business, Innovation and Skills | £694,236.23 | £63,433.26 | £240,771.45 |
| Department for Education | £489,193.30 | £54,254.64 | £213,629.44 |
| Department for Communities and Local Government | £488,276.10 | £52,639.04 | £268,952.57 |
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport | £305,397.32 | £25,631.37 | £65,108.55 |
| Department for Energy and Climate Change | £303,129.83 | £34,967.45 | £131,272.97 |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | £275,989.34 | £18,188.74 | £76,846.27 |
| Department for International Development | £256,656.35 | £33,212.22 | £174,565.37 |
| Department for Transport | £282,979.08 | £25,025.57 | £137,948.56 |
| Department for Work and Pensions | £506,726.45 | £54,728.65 | £205,961.00 |
| Department of Health | £475,490.38 | £52,962.64 | £205,052.81 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | £368,534.31 | £38,162.32 | £145,430.57 |
| HM Treasury | £462,989.33 | £50,812.21 | £223,472.38 |
| Home Office | £514,593.50 | £74,002.64 | £257,297.36 |
| Law Officers' Department | £188,130.75 | £19,993.43 | £107,078.42 |
| Ministry of Defence | £106,342.80 | £15,846.51 | £23,572.12 |
| Ministry of Justice | £320,429.90 | £35,079.33 | £229,214.80 |
| Northern Ireland Office | £77,850.84 | £8,611.98 | £58,789.66 |
| Scotland Office | £107,812.75 | £8,638.61 | £49,807.46 |
| Wales Office | £150,504.20 | £18,260.88 | £113,691.38 |
|  | *£6,738,053.01* | *£708,250.38* | *£3,066,999.47* |

*Number of GCDA Allocated Cars*

| *Department* | *Number of allocations at 31-03-10:* | *Number of allocations at 31-03-11:* |
|---|---|---|
| Cabinet Office | 4 | 0 |
| Department for Business, Innovation and Skills | 7 | 1 |
| Department for Education | 6 | 1 |
| Department for Communities and Local Government | 6 | 1 |
| Department for Culture, Media and Sport | 3 | 0 |
| Department for Energy and Climate Change | 4 | 0 |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | 2 | 1 |
| Department for International Development | 3 | 1 |
| Department for Transport | 3 | 1 |
| Department for Work and Pensions | 6 | 1 |
| Department of Health | 6 | 0 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | 4 | 0 |
| HM Treasury | 6 | 1 |
| Home Office | 6 | 1 |
| Law Officers' Department | 2 | 1 |
| Ministry of Defence | 1 | 0 |
| Ministry of Justice | 4 | 1 |
| Northern Ireland Office | 2 | 1 |
| Scotland Office | 1 | 0 |
| Wales Office | 2 | 1 |
|  | *78* | *13* |

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 17 January 2012*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Regional Development Agencies (Closure)

**The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk):** The Public Bodies Act received Royal Assent on 14 December 2011, and includes parliamentary approval of powers to abolish eight regional development agencies (RDAs). The RDAs are expected to achieve operational closure by 31 March 2012 with formal abolition expected to occur at the end of June 2012.

Most of the RDA assets and projects which were not sold or closed have transferred to receiving bodies during 2011. This includes the majority of land and property assets to the Homes and Communities Agency, grants for research and development to the Technology Strategy Board and venture capital funds to be managed by Capital for Enterprise on behalf of BIS.

BIS issued individual transfer schemes for each RDA under the Public Bodies Act, which came into effect on 1 January 2012 and transferred the majority of the remaining projects and contracts as well as 13 staff from RDAs to BIS so that they can be managed to completion. The schemes and associated transfer schedules are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

I expect that there will be two further transfer schemes to move the last remaining assets, liabilities and obligations out of the RDAs prior to abolition. The first of these is expected in March with the second taking effect at the time of abolition.

The RDAs will produce accounts for the financial year 2011-12 and these will be laid in the Houses in the summer of 2012 in the usual way. The accounts for the period from 1 April 2012 to the date of abolition will be laid in due course.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Disabled Facilities Grant

**The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps):** Today the Department for Communities and Local Government is announcing the local authority allocations of the £20 million additional funding for the disabled facilities grant in England.

Local authorities are being informed of their individual allocations. Details of the amount awarded to each authority will be available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website and a table detailing the funds provided to individual authorities has been placed in the Library of the House.

The disabled facilities grant was protected within the spending review and additional funding is now being provided to help more people live as comfortably and independently as possible in their own homes through the provision of adaptations. This additional £20 million has been allocated to local authorities using a relative needs weighted index and all local authorities will receive some additional funding.

The grant provides financial assistance for a wide range of housing adaptations ranging from stair lifts, to level-access showers and home extensions. The disabled facilities grant is improving the lives of many disabled people and this additional funding is a further demonstration of our commitment to helping older and disabled people continue living in their homes for longer.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces Redundancy Programme

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan):** The Government announced in the outcome of the strategic defence and security review in October 2010 that, as part of moving to Future Force 2020, we would reduce the size of the Regular Army by 7,000 personnel, and both the naval service and Royal Air Force by 5,000 personnel. In addition, in order to balance the British Army's regular and reserve forces, further reductions were subsequently identified to deliver a Regular Army of around 82,000 by 2020. We also made clear that, in order to maintain balanced force structures for the future, an element of these reductions would need to be made through a redundancy programme.

Our statement of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 21WS, set out the process and timetable for the armed forces redundancy programme. Consequently, in September 2011, 2,860 service personnel were notified of their redundancy in the first tranche; 1,020 service personnel from the naval service, 920 from the Army and 920 from the Royal Air Force. Of those made redundant in tranche 1, some 1,770 (62%) had applied for selection.

Today the services are announcing the fields from which they will select personnel to be made redundant in the second tranche of the programme. This will comprise up to 300 members of the naval service, up to 2,900 members of the Army and up to 900 members of the Royal Air Force. This will be the last major tranche for the Navy and the Royal Air Force, who will be able to achieve the majority of the remaining draw-down by other means.

The same selection principles as used in the first tranche will be applied. The services will seek applicants, but will also consider all personnel that meet the published criteria. The redundancy programme will not impact adversely on the current operations in Afghanistan, and no one who is preparing for, deployed on, or recovering from specified operations on the day that redundancy notices are issued will be made redundant unless they have applied. Personnel who are assessed as being permanently below the level of fitness required to remain in the forces will not be considered for redundancy, and will instead leave through the medical discharge route at the appropriate stage in their recovery.

Throughout the redundancy process, we will ensure that we retain the capabilities that our armed forces require in order to meet the challenges of the future.

### Puma ZA934 (Findings of Service Inquiry)

**The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey):** I wish to inform the House today of the findings of the service inquiry into the incident involving Puma ZA934 on 8 August 2007 at Catterick in which three service personnel tragically lost their lives and others on board were injured.

A service inquiry was convened to examine the cause of this incident and to make recommendations to prevent recurrence and this is now complete. The purpose of the service inquiry is to establish the circumstances of the loss and to learn lessons from it; it does not seek to apportion blame.

Puma ZA934 from 33 Squadron RAF Benson was conducting training at the Catterick training area. The Puma was carrying 12 personnel: three RAF crew, an Army officer and eight recruits undergoing basic training at the infantry training centre, Catterick.

The service inquiry found that at approximately 20.50 local time during the day's final sortie, the Puma failed to recover from a tight turn and crashed into land to the west of the Catterick training area. Detailed analysis by the Royal Navy Flight Safety Incident and Investigation Centre suggests that the aircraft's tail rotor guard that protrudes below the tail hit the ground first as the pilot attempted to regain height. This initial impact resulted in the tail being severed. The aircraft then lost rotational stability as the rotor blades made ground contact, causing the fuselage to rotate and flip several times, finally coming to rest having broken up considerably.

Following extensive investigation, the service inquiry concluded that the cause of the incident was an incorrectly executed manoeuvre which caused the aircraft to crash. Contributory factors that led to the incident included: the crew's combined relative inexperience; the lack of robust crew supervision; human factors; manning shortfalls; the high operational task load placed upon 33 Squadron; and the reduced opportunity, because of this task load, for supervised consolidation and reinforcement training.

In addition to these findings, the then Commander Joint Helicopter Command (Rear Admiral Johnstone-Burt) also identified three additional contributory factors: the crew's lack of adherence to checks; operating procedures; and their flight at below the authorised minimum level. In total, 29 recommendations were made covering aircraft handling, training, supervision, manning, organisation and equipment. Of these, 25 have already been implemented and the residual recommendations are in hand.

A copy of the service inquiry, redacted in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, is being placed in the Library of the House and on the Ministry of Defence website.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Devolution

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper):** The coalition programme for government includes a commitment to establish a commission to consider the "West Lothian question". In my statement of 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 27WS, I gave some details of the forthcoming commission and undertook to return to the House with further detail including the terms of reference for the commission. This statement sets out the further detail.

The "Commission on the consequences of devolution for the House of Commons" will consist of a panel of six independent, non-partisan experts, chaired by Sir William McKay, a former Clerk of this House. The other five commission members, whose backgrounds are in law, academia and constitutional development in the UK and the EU, are: Sir Stephen Laws, Sir Geoffrey Bowman, Professor Charlie Jeffery, Professor Yvonne Galligan and Sir Emyr Jones Parry.

As I stated previously, the commission will focus on parliamentary business and procedure. The commission's terms of reference are:

> "To consider how the House of Commons might deal with legislation which affects only part of the United Kingdom, following the devolution of certain legislative powers to the Scottish Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the National Assembly for Wales."

The commission will commence in February 2012 and will make its recommendations to the Government in the course of the next parliamentary session. This reporting time scale is necessary to ensure that the commission has time for proper scrutiny of all relevant options.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Late Night Drinking (Late Night Levy and Early Morning Restriction Orders)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire):** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Crime Prevention and Antisocial Behaviour Reduction (Lord Henley) has today made the following written ministerial statement:

> A consultation on the secondary legislation for the late-night levy and early morning restriction orders has been launched today.
>
> The late-night levy and early morning restriction orders (EMROs) are two alcohol measures in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The extension of EMROs will allow local councils to restrict the sale of alcohol in their local area flexibly between 12 am and 6 am. This is a tool that licensing authorities can use to prevent problems in the night-time economy in either a part or the whole of their area. The late-night levy will fulfil our commitment to allow councils to levy a charge from those selling alcohol late at night in their area to help contribute towards high policing costs in the late-night economy. Again, it can be applied flexibly between 12 am and 6 am. These measures will empower local communities to act to achieve a more viable night-time economy.
>
> The "Dealing with the Problems of Late Night Drinking" consultation is an opportunity for licensing authorities, the licensed trade and its representatives, police officers and the public to share their views on the details of the regulations that will implement these policies. In particular, it asks for views on what categories of premises should benefit from exemptions and reductions under the measures, with the intention to avoid penalising premises that are not part of the wider late-night economy.
>
> Copies of the consultation will be placed in the House Library and it is also available on the Home Office website.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (UK Delegation)

**The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron):** The hon. Member for North Thanet (Sir Roger Gale) and the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire (Oliver Heald) have been appointed as full members of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in place of the hon. Member for East Surrey (Mr Gyimah) and the hon. Member for Devizes (Claire Perry), who become substitute members.

Lord Anderson has been appointed as a full member in place of the hon. Member for Stockport (Ann Coffey), who becomes a substitute member.

Lord Ahmad and Baroness Eaton have been appointed as substitute members in place of Lord Glentoran and Lord Inglewood.

The hon. Member for Monmouth (David T. C. Davies) has been appointed as a substitute member in place of the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford (Nick Boles).

## TRANSPORT

### Civil Aviation Authority Environmental Objectives

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers):** When the CAA is exercising its air navigation functions it is required under the Transport Act 2000 to take account of environmental guidance given to it by the Secretary of State. The current guidance was issued in 2002 by the then Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions.

The CAA has been able to take account of the guidance to make decisions on over 70 proposals for airspace change over the last nine years. The guidance recommends that the CAA keeps abreast of current Government policy including on planning, sustainable development and noise as well as guidance issued by the devolved Administrations.

Given the length of time since the guidance was published, and the recommendations of Sir Joseph Pilling in his July 2008 strategic review of the CAA and the Transport Select Committee in its 2009 report on the use of airspace, the Government recognise the need to update the guidance to reflect current Government policy, including on issues such as noise and climate change. This will be done next year following development of the "Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation" and will include a public consultation so that all views can be heard on this important subject.

In the interim the Department for Transport is publishing today a technical addendum to the guidance. The addendum updates references and lists relevant policy documents and legislation published since 2002 that the CAA takes into account when considering airspace change proposals.

### Plug-In Car Grant Review

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker):** I am pleased to announce the launch of a plug-in van grant alongside the continuation of the existing plug-in car grant to help stimulate the market for ultra-low emission vehicles. The plug-in van grant, available to both private and business buyers across the UK, will provide a point of purchase discount of 20%, up to a maximum value of £8,000, for the purchase of eligible new ultra-low emission vans[1].

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, my hon. Friend the Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk) and I have reviewed the existing plug-in car grant, which provides a discount of 25%, up to £5,000 off the price of eligible ultra-low emission cars. We examined the need for and value of the grant, as well as its scope. We have concluded that there remains a strong case for the grant. We have therefore decided to continue with the plug-in car grant at the current level, with provision out to 2015.

In addition, we are persuaded that there is a strong case for supporting ultra-low emission technology in vans—which often have fixed duty cycles and return to base regularly where they can easily recharge. An up-front purchase grant, when combined with the lower running costs and tax benefits, can make switching to an ultra-low emission van an attractive choice for businesses. The plug-in van grant, alongside the existing plug-in car grant, is designed to help private individuals and businesses adopt new, cleaner technology. Businesses, especially those with fleets, will be a key driver in increasing the market share of ultra-low emission vehicles.

The shift towards clean technology is an opportunity to reinvigorate further the UK automotive industry, where many van manufacturers are based, alongside helping to increase our energy security. The plug-in van grant will help to improve local air quality in our cities, reduce carbon emissions and meet Government targets. The technology fits well with a large portion of the van market that relies on short urban trips to and from base.

Only vans which meet strict performance criteria for range, tail-pipe emissions and safety will be eligible for the plug-in van grant. We are today opening the application process and inviting van manufacturers to apply for their vehicles to become part of the scheme. To be considered in the first tranche, applications will need to be received by 31 January. I look forward to confirming very shortly thereafter the first vans to join the scheme.

[1] Subject to state aid approval from the European Commission.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 18 January 2012*

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Foreign Affairs Council: 23 January - General Affairs Council: 27 January

**The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington):** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I will attend the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 January. I will also attend the General Affairs Council on 27 January.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, will chair the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 January.

*Iran*

As agreed at the December 2011 FAC, Ministers should be presented with a package to expand and strengthen EU sanctions against Iran, including an oil embargo and further restrictions on finance, petrochemicals and gold. If agreed, these measures will reflect the degree of EU concern about the continued development of the Iran's nuclear programme. These robust measures aim to reduce Iran's ability to fund its nuclear programme and to encourage it to resume serious and meaningful negotiations.

*Syria*

In response to the continuing repression, we are pushing to agree strong conclusions on Syria and a further round of EU sanctions. The UK has proposed an additional list of 21 military and security officials we believe are responsible for the violence against civilians. We are also working with partners to agree further sanctions at the February FAC.

*Burma*

Ministers will discuss recent developments in Burma, including the release last week of a significant number of political prisoners, and how the EU can best support the Burmese Government in continuing on their path of reform. We expect conclusions to be adopted welcoming the recent positive developments; and making it clear that the EU will respond substantively if further progress is made in key areas, including free and fair by-elections on 1 April, and further steps towards resolving the ethnic conflict.

On 13 December the Foreign Secretary said:

> "I am delighted to hear that a significant number of political prisoners in Burma have today been released, including 88 Generation and ethnic leaders".
>
> "The release of all political prisoners is a long-standing demand of the international community and I warmly welcome these releases as a further demonstration of the Burmese Government's commitment to reform".
>
> "This is exactly the kind of measure I called for in all my meetings with Burmese Government leaders last week. So is this week's much needed ceasefire in the conflict with the Karen people. I hope these positive steps will contribute to greater democratic participation in the upcoming parliamentary by-elections".

Speaking on 12 January, the Foreign Secretary welcomed the ceasefire between the Burmese Government and Karen National Union:

> "I welcome the reports that the Burmese Government and Karen National Union have signed a ceasefire after 63 years of fighting. This is good news for the people of Burma. It has been a long-standing goal of the international community to see a ceasefire, and indeed it was one of the key issues on which I urged the Burmese Government to make progress during my visit last week when I also met with Karen representatives. There is still a long way to go fully to rebuild trust between the parties after so many years of conflict, but this is an important step in the right direction".

*MEPP*

Ministers are likely to receive a report from Baroness Ashton on the talks in Amman between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, which Quartet representatives also attended.

We also hope to agree conclusions which welcome the direct talks facilitated by the Jordanians as part of the Quartet process; encourage both parties to present comprehensive proposals on territory and security as called for in the Quartet statement; and urge both parties to refrain from actions which might damage the prospects of a two-state solution.

*Egypt*

We expect discussions to focus on the completion of elections to the lower House and the first sitting due on 23 January. We will urge EU partners to maintain a high-level of ambition on the EU offer, and to ensure that it is communicated effectively; and to push the Egyptians on the central role that civil society has to play in the transition process. Although there are unlikely to be conclusions at this FAC, we expect there to be some in February reporting on progress on the transition.

*Sudan/South Sudan*

The discussion is likely to focus on the unresolved issues and tension between the two countries following secession of South Sudan in July 2011. Additionally, Ministers may review the ongoing conflicts and lack of humanitarian access in Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, Abyei and Darfur, and the recent violence in Jonglei, South Sudan. We expect the adoption of the first formal conclusions since South Sudan's secession, which we believe should mark the progress that secession represents, while setting out the EU's concern at the ongoing conflict, human rights abuses and weak governance in both countries.

*Serbia/Kosovo*

Baroness Ashton is expected to brief Ministers on progress in the EU-facilitated dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo. A decision on Serbia's EU candidate status will be taken at the February GAC; so any ensuing discussion at this FAC will probably focus on Serbian progress towards meeting the necessary conditions on Kosovo as specified by the December European Council. We welcome the progress made over the Christmas period, with Serbia and Kosovo implementing the dialogue agreement on freedom of movement. But we believe there is still more for Serbia to do to meet fully the

European Council's requirements before the February GAC, particularly on Kosovan representation in regional fora.

*Belarus*

We expect Ministers to agree an expansion of the designation criteria for exiting EU sanctions against Belarus. Formal conclusions may also be agreed, and Ministers may discuss the political and human rights situation in Belarus.

*Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)/Horn of Africa*

Although CSDP/Horn of Africa is not a formal agenda item, Ministers may be asked to agree conclusions reaffirming their commitment to launch the regional maritime capacity building (RMCB) mission to the Horn of Africa—as agreed by Ministers at the FAC on 1 December. The mission will help to strengthen the counter piracy efforts of local actors. We are keen to see the RMCB make a tangible difference on the ground, and to ensure that the EU Operations Centre best co-ordinates military support to this predominantly civilian mission and ensures coherence with existing EU missions in the region.

*Religious Freedom*

Although not a formal agenda item, we expect Italy to raise freedom of religion following recent violence against places of worship in Nigeria. On 25 December, the Foreign Secretary said:

> "I condemn today's bomb attacks in or near churches in Nigeria. These are cowardly attacks on families gathered in peace and prayer to celebrate a day which symbolises harmony and goodwill towards others. I offer my condolences to the bereaved and injured".

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

The GAC will be chaired by the new Danish EU presidency.

Before the official programme of the General Affairs Council, Herman van Rompuy will present, over breakfast, the latest situation with the intergovernmental treaty. There are two main items on the GAC agenda in January. The first is the European Council: follow-up to the December Council and preparation for January's informal Council on growth the following week (30 January).

The conclusions of the December European Council meeting can be found at:

http://www.european-council.europa.eu/council-meetings/conclusions.aspx.

The second substantive item is the multi-annual financial framework, where there will be a stock-take of progress made in technical working groups. The Danish presidency will explain how they plan to organise this negotiation under their chairmanship.

There will also be an update on recent decisions taken by the European Parliament and a presentation of the Danish presidency's work plan.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Taxi Drivers (Criminal Records Certificates)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone):** The Government have received representations from a number of organisations concerning the appropriate level of criminal records checks for licensed taxi and public hire vehicle drivers. At present the legal entitlement for many drivers is for a standard level criminal records check, although the practice has grown up of applying for enhanced level checks across the sector. These checks include any relevant local police information, in addition to a record of previous criminal convictions, cautions and warnings.

Having carefully considered these representations, and consulted representatives of the sector, we have decided that:

> All taxi and private hire drivers should be entitled to enhanced criminal records checks; and
>
> Licensing authorities will additionally be entitled to check whether any applicant is barred from work with children or vulnerable adults under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Taking account of the fact that many drivers are self-employed, criminal records applications may be made through the appropriate licensing authority. The decision on whether to grant a licence will remain a matter for the licensing authority.

This change clarifies the law and regularises practice which has grown up over many years in the taxi sector.

Changes will be made by secondary legislation as soon as practicable.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 19 January 2012*

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces Pay Review Body - Reappointments

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Philip Hammond):** I am pleased to announce that I have reappointed Ms Mary Carter and Mr John Steele as members of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body for a second three-year term; and the Very Reverend Dr Graham Forbes as a member of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body for a second two-year term. The reappointments, which commence in March 2012, have been conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' guidance on appointments to public bodies.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Feed-in Tariffs

**The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker):** On 31 October 2011, the Government published a consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV). This was in response to a substantial increase in deployment of PV, prompted by falling prices, with levels at nearly double the original projections for the first two years of the scheme. The consultation set out proposals for responding to these developments, which were putting unsustainable pressure on the budget available for FITs.

The consultation sought views on whether to reduce the generation tariffs available for new solar PV installations to a more financially sustainable level. Among other things, it proposed applying the new generation tariffs from 1 April 2012 to all new solar PV installations with an eligibility date on or after an earlier "reference date", which we proposed should be 12 December 2011. This reference date proposal has since been challenged by judicial review and the Government have sought an appeal of the decision of the High Court. We are now waiting for a judgment from the Court of Appeal and we cannot be sure of the date on which this will be issued.

We continue to stand by our original proposal. However, I know that the uncertainty while we await the Court's decision is difficult for the industry. A retention of the 43p tariff could also create substantial risks to the FITs budget if our appeal is unsuccessful. For these reasons, we believe it is prudent to bring forward our decision on one aspect of the consultation: the proposals for new solar PV tariffs.

We are therefore laying before Parliament today some draft licence modifications which, subject to the parliamentary process set out in the Energy Act 2008, makes provision for a reduced tariff rate (from 1 April 2012 onwards) for new PV installations with an eligibility date on or after 3 March 2012.

If the Court finds in favour of the Government's appeal, we intend to stand by all our consultation proposals, including an earlier (December) reference date, subject to the parliamentary procedure and consideration of consultation responses. It is very important that we reserve this as an option because these 43p payments will take a disproportionate share of the budget available for small scale low-carbon technologies. We want instead to maximise the number of installations that are possible within the available budget rather than use available subsidy to pay a higher tariff to a smaller number of installations.

The consultation closed on 23 December 2011 and over 2,000 consultation responses were received which we have been analysing carefully. We are intending to announce the outcome of the consultation by 9 February 2012, in time for any resulting legislative changes to come into effect from 1 April 2012. Our aim is that this announcement will be accompanied by a set of reform proposals for the next phase of the comprehensive review of the FITs scheme, which will be the subject of a further consultation.

The new generation tariffs set out in the draft licence modifications being laid today are set out in the table below and would apply for all installations with an eligibility date on or after 3 March 2012. Further information on the Government's response to this aspect of the consultation, together with a summary of the relevant consultation responses, is also being published today on the Department for Energy and Climate Change's website and will be available from: www.decc.gov.uk/FITs

| *Band (kW Declared Net Capacity (DNC)* | *Current Generation Tariff (p/kWh)* | *New Generation Tariff from 1 April 2012 (p/kWh)* |
|---|---:|---:|
| ≤4kW (new build) | 37.8 | 21.0 |
| ≤4kW (retrofit) | 43.3 | 21.0 |
| >4-10kW | 37.8 | 16.8 |
| >10-50kW | 32.9 | 15.2 |
| >50-100kW | 19 | 12.9 |
| >100-150kW | 19 | 12.9 |
| >150-250kW | 15 | 12.9 |
| >250kW-5MW | 8.5 | 8.5 |
| stand alone | 8.5 | 8.5 |

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bovine TB

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** In December I announced that the Government would allow controlled culling of badgers, carried out by groups of farmers and landowners, as part of a science-led and carefully managed policy of badger control to tackle TB in cattle. The policy would be piloted in two areas to test our assumptions about the effectiveness, humaneness and safety of controlled shooting.

I also announced that to select the pilot areas, I was inviting the farming industry to come forward with a shortlist of areas from which DEFRA would prioritise two to submit full applications for licences to control badgers.

I can now confirm that I have asked groups in two carefully selected areas, West Gloucestershire and West Somerset, to submit applications to Natural England.

Natural England will assess the applications against the strict licensing criteria and decide whether or not to grant licences. If either of the two areas fail to meet the licensing requirements, another area from the industry's shortlist will be invited to apply.

I understand that residents in these areas may have views on the proposal to cull badgers and, as part of its assessment, Natural England will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the applications.

However, those undertaking licensed activity, and those living and working within the application area, must be protected. Therefore, we do not propose to make available any further information at this stage about the exact location of the pilot areas.

We expect Natural England's decision on whether or not to grant licences to these two areas to be made in the spring.

An independent panel of experts will oversee the monitoring and evaluation of the pilot areas and report back to Government.

Following conclusion of the first annual six-week cull in the pilot areas, from what we observe and what we learn, and taking into account the evaluation by the independent panel of experts, we will then take a decision on whether further licences should be granted.

Professor Christopher Wathes has been appointed chair of the independent panel of experts. Professor Wathes is a professor of animal welfare at the Royal Veterinary College and the current chair of the Farm Animal Welfare Committee. Other members of the panel will be appointed shortly.

I know that there is great strength of feeling on badger culling, but I also know that we need to take action now before the situation deteriorates even further. We need to tackle all transmission routes of TB using all the available tools.

## TRANSPORT

### ATOL Reform and the Civil Aviation Bill

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers):** The Government consulted on proposals to reform the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) scheme between 23 June and 15 September 2011. The consultation included proposals that would require new primary legislation to help bring greater clarity and coherence to holiday protection.

Following the consultation and after careful consideration of the responses, I am pleased to announce that the Civil Aviation Bill introduced today includes a clause that would widen the Secretary of State's powers so that holidays sold by airlines or arranged on an "agent for the consumer" basis could be included in the ATOL scheme in the future. The Government's intention is that such a step would only be taken following full consultation with stakeholders including an impact assessment.

The Government intend to make a further statement on the full range of proposals for ATOL reform, shortly.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Friday 20 January 2012*

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Statutory Register of Lobbyists

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper):** Today the Government have launched a consultation on initial proposals to introduce a statutory register of lobbyists. The consultation will run until 13 April 2012 and a consultation paper (Cm 8233) is available on the Cabinet Office website. A copy of the consultation document will also be placed in the House Library.

We believe the introduction of a statutory register will be an important step towards increasing transparency and rebuilding public trust in politics. Our initial proposals are that any individual or firm who lobbies for a third party for money must put themselves on the register and disclose their clients. We think it is important that the public should be able to see who is lobbying Ministers, and for whom. That is why there is already a requirement that Ministers should publish details of who they are meeting, at least quarterly. We believe it is right that lobbying companies should disclose who is paying them to lobby Government.

We suggest that individuals or companies lobbying for themselves should not be covered by a register because the disclosure requirements on Ministers will show this activity already. We hope for a wide range of responses on all our proposals, but we are particularly interested to hear views on whether organisations like NGOs and charities, which do not lobby for others for money but are advancing agendas, should be covered. We are also consulting as to how, if at all, trade union activities should be covered.

The Government are clear that it is not our intention to propose that individuals taking up issues with Ministers, or companies discussing matters of mutual interest with Government should be covered by the requirement to register. These are vital democratic functions and covered by the disclosure requirement on Government Departments. We are interested in views on whether our definitions meet this objective.

Any proposals for a statutory register should not impinge on the ability of charities to lobby or on a constituent's ability to lobby their own MP.

This is a complicated area, and we are hoping for a wide range of consultation responses to help us produce proposals which are proportionate and practical.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture and Fisheries Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** The next Agriculture and Fisheries Council is on Monday 23 January in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister with responsibility for Agriculture and Food will represent the UK. Stewart Stevenson MSP and Alun Davies AM will also attend.

In the morning, following a presentation of the Danish presidency's programme for the next six months, the Commission will present their animal welfare strategy, published this week.

In the afternoon there will be a discussion on the single common market organisation (CMC) Regulation as part of the CAP reform package. This item will cover market intervention measures, role of producers' organisations, crisis management and competition policy.

At lunch the Commission (José Manuel Barroso—president of the Commission and Dacian Ciolos—Agriculture Commissioner) will be hosting an event launching celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the CAP.

### Environment Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** I represented the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 19 December. Stewart Stevenson, Scottish Minister for Environment and Climate Change, also joined the delegation.

Following lengthy debate, the Council adopted conclusions on implementation of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020. I indicated the need for speedy implementation, and highlighted the UK's own national biodiversity strategy. I also emphasised the importance of fully implementing the resource mobilisation strategy. In relation to CAP, I reiterated our view that the best way to help the environment was through targeted measures under pillar 2: environment outcomes are most cost-effectively delivered by longer-term, targeted interventions.

Ministers also adopted conclusions on the resource efficiency road map. The Commission underlined the importance of this agenda for the future of the European economy. I brought attention to significant savings we have identified UK businesses could make via increased resource efficiency, and stressed the importance of this agenda in making the transition to a "green" economy, not just in the EU, but also globally in the context of Rio plus 20. I also highlighted that businesses were leading the drive towards more efficient resource use and it was important to draw on their expertise.

The presidency informed the Council of progress made on: the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances ("Seveso III" directive); the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (PIC); and the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the sulphur content of marine fuels. On the latter, I supported the elements of the Commission's proposal that aligned it with the relevant 2008 International Maritime Organisation agreement, as it would provide much-needed certainty for industry and would deliver significant environmental benefits. However, I also emphasised that the economic impact on the industry must be minimised.

After lunch, over which Ministers continued to discuss the importance of resource efficiency, there was an exchange of views on the result of the 17th conference of the parties (COP 17) to the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) in Durban. Most member states agreed that the result was an important step forward, and that the EU's speaking with one voice, with a clear position, and in coalition with the least developed countries and small island states, were key factors that contributed to the success of the conference, and elements which should be built upon in future. Many member states noted, however, that there are still significant challenges to be overcome in the coming months, such as defining the EU's emission reduction target, the length of the second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol, and how to tackle the issue of surplus assigned amount units. I made the case that further progress depended on the EU's leadership, and to this end I made the case that an EU emissions reduction target of 30% (compared to 1990 levels) was the right place to be in 2020.

## TRANSPORT

### Intercity West Coast Rail Franchise

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers):** In May last year, the then Secretary of State announced that the next intercity west coast franchise would start on 9 December 2012.

The Department for Transport has today published an invitation to tender to mark the commencement of the formal bidding stage of the competition to replace the current operator on the west coast main line. The new franchise will continue through to March 2026, this date being aligned to the introduction of high-speed services along the proposed HS2 route.

Increasing capacity and tackling overcrowding is our priority. Some 106 extra "Pendolino" carriages are being provided for the west coast. In addition to the 45% increase in capacity delivered in December 2008, 31 existing Pendolinos are being lengthened from 9 to 11 carriages and four new trains are being introduced, increasing the number of standard class seats on each train by almost 50%, from 320 to 470.

In all, the 106 new carriages will make 28,000 extra seats available each day, an increase of 25%. We expect that the additional and lengthened trains will be targeted on those routes and times of day with the highest demand.

It was further announced in May that a consultation would take place on a revised train service requirement (TSR). A summary of and response to this consultation has also been published today on the Department for Transport website.

The TSR has been designed to give bidders greater flexibility to respond to passenger demand and run their businesses in a more commercial way within a framework set by the franchise that protects key outcomes for passengers, taxpayers and the economy. The TSR requires the provision of the same number of weekly stops at each station as set out in the current franchise; but will allow the franchisee to vary the capacity provided on individual days of the week in order to cater for the variations in daily demand.

The ITT contains less specification than in previous competitions, with a stronger focus on outcomes, for example on passenger satisfaction, rather than detailed prescriptive inputs. We expect the additional flexibility set out in the ITT to enable bidders to provide both a better service for passengers and an improved financial return for taxpayers.

However, we will continue to specify core requirements and to manage overall compliance of key deliverables, such as performance and service quality. The franchise will contain new obligations based around passenger satisfaction with stations, trains and customer services.

The franchise length of up to 15 years including an option to extend by 20 months is intended to encourage the development of long-term relationships between the operator and stakeholders, giving greater scope to challenge and reduce excessive industry costs. We also expect the certainty provided by a long franchise to encourage investment in assets such as stations, by extending the period over which commercially attractive schemes can pay back. The new franchisee will take over full repairing responsibilities for the 17 stations they manage. We believe that cost savings can be achieved through combining roles currently split between the operator and Network Rail in relation to stations.

A new risk-sharing mechanism based on macro-economic variables has been introduced to remove some of the perverse operator behaviour experienced under the cap and collar system, while still providing an appropriate allocation of risk between the taxpayer and the operator.

Cap and collar led to stronger concentration on revenue generation schemes rather than on cost reduction because support was available in the event of underperformance on revenue. Our new risk-sharing mechanism helps create a more balanced approach to revenue and costs when bidders are considering how to develop their business.

A profit-share mechanism has been introduced to enable the taxpayer to benefit from a share in profits above an agreed threshold which the franchise has generated, while continuing to provide sufficient incentive for the franchisee to outperform.

The franchise will specify the introduction of ITSO-based smart ticketing. The introduction of smart ticketing will provide significant benefits for passengers and the use of the ITSO standard will enable the same card to be used on a range of different public transport services.

The intercity west coast ITT takes forward the franchising reforms set out in January 2011. Given the diversity of the rail network, our approach will be adapted to meet the individual requirements of different franchises. Future franchise contracts will not be identical but common themes will underlie all of them, including an emphasis on innovation, passenger satisfaction and greater commercial freedom to respond to the needs of passengers.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Draft Occupational Pension Schemes and Pension Protection Fund (Equality) (Amendment) Regulations

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb):** The Government have today begun consultation on draft regulations to ensure domestic legislation reflects the effect of current European case law regarding the obligation on pension schemes to treat men and women equally.

The draft regulations will amend domestic legislation to reflect the specific point that, where an inequality in pension scheme rules results from the legislation governing the guaranteed minimum pension, the scheme is required to equalise, even where no opposite sex comparator exists.

The Government have been advised by a number of organisations that some schemes with guaranteed minimum pension liabilities have been finding equalisation action difficult. As we wish to offer as much help as is practical, we have also published today, for consultation, one possible method of equalisation.

This suggested method of equalisation will not have any force of law and there will be no obligation on schemes to use it. However, the Government hope that experts in the pensions industry will engage constructively with it and, as a result, schemes will know that the revised version will have been published after a consideration of a large range of views.

A copy of this consultation document will be placed in the House Library.

# Petitions

*Tuesday 10 January 2012*

## OBSERVATIONS

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Alternatives to a Nuclear Power Station at Hinkley Point (Somerset)

*The Petition of supporters of the Stop Hinkley campaign,*

Declares that the Petitioners strongly oppose the plan by EdF (Electricite de France) to construct a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset and declares that as an alternative, the Petitioners believe that a Government-backed programme of energy saving and clean renewable energy would combat climate change and avoid the risks of catastrophic accidents and dangers to health resulting from the storage of highly radioactive waste at Hinkley for 160 years.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to commit to an energy policy based on energy saving and clean renewable energy, in which new nuclear power stations play no part.

And the petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tessa Munt, Official Report,* 14 December 2011; Vol. 537, c. 892.*]*

[P000991]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, received 5 January 2012:*

Hinkley is one of the eight sites listed on the Nuclear National Policy Statement as potentially suitable for the building of new nuclear power stations before the end of 2025. The Nuclear NPS was approved by the House in July 2011 The NPS reflects the Government's view that there is an urgent need for new energy infrastructure, including nuclear but also renewables, as well as for increased energy efficiency, as part of a secure low-carbon energy mix.

EDF submitted an application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission for development consent for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in October 2011. The IPC are now considering the application. When they have completed their examination they will make a recommendation to me as Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I will make the final decision. But it is the IPC's role to consider the application and Stop Hinkley, or anyone else wanting to make representations about the application, should register with the IPC their wish to do so.

## TRANSPORT

### Keynsham Railway Station Access

*The Humble Petition of residents of North East Somerset,*

Sheweth,

that the Petitioners believe that there are inadequate facilities for disabled people who wish to use Keynsham railway station.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of state for Transport to encourage First Group plc to provide adequate facilities for disabled people at Keynsham railway station.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Jacob Rees-Mogg, Official Report,* 9 November 2011; Vol. 535, c. 410.]

[P000980]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 4 January 2012:*

The Department is aware of the accessibility issues at Keynsham station and that First Group has plans to provide facilities for disabled passengers at this station.

The Department received a bid from First Group for Access for All Mid-tier funding to develop step-free access to platform 1 at Keynsham station. The delivery of this scheme will complete the provision of step-free access to both platforms by the construction of a ramp from the existing footbridge to the platform.

The outcome of the bidding process for this funding was announced on 6 December. The bid for Keynsham station was successful and the Department has offered £415,000 towards the project which will be completed later this year.

# Petition

*Thursday 12 January 2012*

## OBSERVATIONS

### BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

**Royal Mail Delivery Office, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire**

*The Petition of residents of Kidsgrove, Staffordshire and others,*

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the proposed relocation of the Royal Mail Delivery Office from Kidsgrove to Newcastle-under-Lyme, without consultation with local people and businesses, will result in a deterioration of local services, will be detrimental to local businesses, and cause an increased carbon footprint.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to ensure that Royal Mail consults with local partners to improve delivery services in line with the commercial and domestic needs of the Kidsgrove, ST7 area and reviews the proposed relocation accordingly.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Joan Walley, Official Report,* 13 December 2011; Vol. 537, c. 762.]

[P000988]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:*

The Government recognise that any changes to local delivery offices may raise concerns about the impact of such changes on local postal services.

The restructuring of Royal Mail's delivery operations, not just in Kidsgrove but right across the UK, forms part of its much needed national programme of modernisation. This programme will ensure that the company has the right delivery infrastructure in the right locations to enable it to deliver the universal postal service as effectively and efficiently as possible. Given the very real challenges facing the business, such as the falling volumes of letters, modernisation and transformation of its network is essential if it is to thrive and the universal postal service is to be maintained.

Responsibility for the restructuring is an operational matter which rests with Royal Mail's senior management team.

When planning any operational changes, the company will always give due consideration to how best it can continue to protect the interests of its customers and ensure it delivers a high quality service.

The company conducts a consultation process with its staff and unions on its restructuring plans, but it is not obliged to consult publicly on its proposals. However, it aims to keep all interested stakeholders informed, engaged and updated as its plans develop.

# Petition

*Wednesday 18 January 2012*

## PRESENTED PETITION

*Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor*

### Definition of Gypsy Status

*The Petition of supporters of the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups,*

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the present definition of "Gypsy Status" in the context of planning law puts Gypsy women who act as carers for their family or who are widowed or divorced in an unequal position; declares that the Petitioners believe that recent case-law shows that this is an increasing issue; declares that the Petitioners believe that the present definition is not a fair or equal one under the Equality Act 2010 and declares that in light of the drafting of the new National Planning Policy Framework and the new Planning Policy Statement, this is an ideal time to look at this issue.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, together with the Equalities Minister, to urgently discuss the definition of "Gypsy" status for the purposes of planning law with, among others, representatives of Romany Gypsies and English, Scots, Welsh and Irish Travellers.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Rory Stewart .]*

[P000997]

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 10 January 2012*

## DEFENCE

### A400M Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the effect of changes in exchange rates on the cost of purchasing A400M aircraft. [85590]

**Peter Luff:** The multinational A400M design and production phase acquisition contract is priced in euros, so exchange rate variations will have a bearing on the cost, and the effect of any such change is dealt with as part of the planning round process. I am, however, withholding the precise figures as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests of Airbus Military, and A400M Partner Nations, because it would disclose financial information about how much each country is paying for their individual aircraft and would therefore give information valuable to Airbus Military's competitors.

### Peacekeeping Operations: Commonwealth Personnel

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Commonwealth service personnel of each country of origin in UK forces have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in (i) Afghanistan since 2001 and (ii) since Iraq since 2003; and what the (A) regiment and rank and (B) date of death or injury was in each case. [87080]

**Nick Harvey:** UK forces personnel are individually asked, but not required, to declare their nationality on the Joint Personnel Administration system. These data are the main basis of the information contained in the following tables. It is therefore not a complete record, although it is likely to give a broadly accurate indication of the proportion of fatalities and casualties who were Commonwealth citizens, and has been cross-referenced against other centrally held information from the Office for National Statistics. More detailed data on individuals' nationality are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Of those service personnel who died in Afghanistan since 2001, 15 had declared nationality of a non-British Commonwealth country. Of those who died in Iraq since 2003, four had declared nationality of a non-British Commonwealth country. Also shown are all individuals who declared a nationality from a non-Commonwealth country and those where no nationality could be confirmed.

*Table 1: Fatalities in Afghanistan*

| *Date of death* | *Rank* | *Nationality* | *Regiment/Corps* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 27 June 2006 | Sergeant | Not documented | Naval Service |
| 1 September 2006 | Private | Fijian | Royal Irish Regiment |
| 2 September 2006 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Sergeant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Sergeant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Sergeant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Sergeant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Sergeant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Sergeant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Sergeant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 September 2006 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 19 October 2006 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 5 December 2006 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 12 December 2006 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 27 December 2006 | Lance Corporal | South African | Royal Regiment of Artillery |
| 13 January 2007 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 15 January 2007 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 21 February 2007 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 21 February 2007 | Marine | Not Documented | Royal Marines |
| 3 March 2007 | Lance Corporal | South African | Royal Regiment of Artillery |
| 8 September 2007 | Private | South African | Mercian Regiment |
| 13 April 2008 | Senior Aircraftman | Not documented | RAF |
| 2 May 2008 | Trooper | Fijian | Household Cavalry |
| 4 September 2008 | Private | Irish | Royal Irish Regiment |
| 4 November 2008 | Rifleman | Nepalese | Royal Gurkha Regiment |
| 12 November 2008 | Marine | Irish | Royal Marines |
| 15 November 2008 | Staff Sergeant | Nepalese | Royal Gurkha Regiment |

*Table 1: Fatalities in Afghanistan*

| *Date of death* | *Rank* | *Nationality* | *Regiment/Corps* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 May 2009 | Corporal | Nepalese | Royal Gurkha Regiment |
| 22 May 2009 | Fusilier | Fijian | Royal Regiment of Fusiliers |
| 16 July 2009 | Rifleman | Fijian | Rifles |
| 7 February 2010 | Private | Canadian | Royal Regiment of Scotland |
| 1 March 2010 | Rifleman | South African | Rifles |
| 15 June 2010 | Corporal | Fijian | Duke of Lancaster's Regiment |
| 15 June 2010 | Kingsman | Fijian | Duke of Lancaster's Regiment |
| 13 July 2010 | Corporal | Nepalese | Royal Gurkha Regiment |
| 1 August 2010 | Lance Sergeant (Corporal) | Jamaican | Foot Guards |
| 12 August 2010 | Rifleman | Nepalese | Mercian Regiment |
| 13 August 2010 | Sapper | Nepalese | Corps of Royal Engineers |
| 2 October 2010 | Rifleman | Nepalese | Royal Gurkha Regiment |
| 5 December 2010 | Private | New Zealander | Parachute Regiment |
| 1 January 2011 | Private | Fijian | Royal Regiment of Scotland |
| 16 July 2011 | Lance Corporal | South African | Royal Armoured Corps |
| 5 August 2011 | Marine | British Hong Kong | Royal Marines |
| 15 October 2011 | Rifleman | Not documented | Royal Gurkha Regiment |
| 8 December 2011 | Sapper | Not documented | Corps of Royal Engineers |

*Table 2: Fatalities in Iraq*

| *Date of death* | *Rank* | *Nationality* | *Regiment/Corps* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21 March 2003 | Major | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 21 March 2003 | Captain | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 21 March 2003 | Warrant Officer Class 2 | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 21 March 2003 | Colour Sergeant | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 21 March 2003 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 21 March 2003 | Able Rating | Not documented | Naval Service |
| 22 March 2003 | Lieutenant (RN) | Not documented | Naval Service |
| 22 March 2003 | Lieutenant (RN) | Not documented | Naval Service |
| 22 March 2003 | Lieutenant (RN) | Not documented | Naval Service |
| 22 March 2003 | Lieutenant (RN) | Not documented | Naval Service |
| 22 March 2003 | Lieutenant (RN) | Not documented | Naval Service |
| 22 March 2003 | Lieutenant (RN) | Not documented | Naval Service |
| 23 March 2003 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 23 March 2003 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 30 March 2003 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 30 March 2003 | Major | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 6 April 2003 | Guardsman | Zimbabwean | Foot Guards |
| 6 April 2003 | Lance Corporal | Irish | Foot Guards |
| 8 May 2003 | Senior Aircraftman | Not documented | RAF |
| 19 May 2003 | Corporal | Not documented | RAF |
| 31 October 2003 | Corporal | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 19 July 2004 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 8 November 2004 | Private | Fijian | Royal Regiment of Scotland |
| 30 January 2005 | Chief Technician | Not documented | RAF |
| 30 January 2005 | Flight Sergeant | Not documented | RAF |
| 30 January 2005 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 30 January 2005 | Corporal | Not documented | RAF |
| 30 January 2005 | Sergeant | Not documented | RAF |
| 30 January 2005 | Squadron Leader | Not documented | RAF |
| 30 January 2005 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 30 January 2005 | Flight Lieutenant | Not documented | RAF |
| 30 January 2005 | Master Aircrew | Not documented | RAF |
| 6 May 2006 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 6 May 2006 | Lieutenant Commander | Not documented | Naval Service |
| 13 May 2006 | Private | Fijian | Royal Anglian Regiment |
| 12 November 2006 | Corporal | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 12 November 2006 | Marine | Not documented | Royal Marines |
| 6 July 2007 | Rifleman | Fijian | Rifles |
| 19 July 2007 | Senior Aircraftman | Not documented | RAF |
| 7 August 2007 | Leading Aircraftman | Not documented | RAF |

For injured personnel, it is not appropriate to release information which could lead to their identification. It is not possible to break down the figures beyond those categories shown as follows without doing so, and I am therefore withholding this information.

*Table 3: Afghanistan: UK armed forces seriously injured casualties by year and nationality, 7 October 2001 to 30 November 2011*

| *Country of nationality* | *All* | *2001-06* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *Number*<br>*2011* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | 544 | 41 | 63 | 65 | 157 | 154 | 64 |
| Great Britain | 443 | 0 | 54 | 59 | 141 | 130 | 59 |
| Other Commonwealth | 19 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| Non Commonwealth | 36 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 1 |
| Unknown | 46 | 41 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

*Table 4: Iraq: UK armed forces seriously injured casualties by year and nationality, 1 January 2003 to 21 May 2011*

| *Country of nationality* | *All* | *2001-06* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *Number*<br>*2011* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | 222 | 143 | 69 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Great Britain | 51 | 0 | 42 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Commonwealth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non Commonwealth | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unknown | 170 | 143 | 26 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Air Force: Ammunition

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether WE.177 munitions have been stored at *(a)* RAF Kinloss, *(b)* RAF Lossiemouth, *(c)* RAF Leuchars and *(d)* RAF Machrihanish. [86833]

**Peter Luff:** Due to the length of time that WE.177 munitions have been out of service, a search of archived records is required. I will write to the hon. Member when this search is complete.

### Air Force: Radiation Exposure

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment his Department has made of the primary source of radium contamination at *(a)* RAF Kinloss, *(b)* RAF Machrihanish, *(c)* RNAS Donibristle, *(d)* DARA Almondbank and *(e)* Stirling Forthside; and if he will make a statement; [86834]

(2) if he will place in the Library the most recent copy of the Land Quality Assessment reports for *(a)* RAF Kinloss, *(b)* RAF Machrihanish, *(c)* RNAS Donibristle, *(d)* DARA Almondbank and *(e)* Stirling Forthside; and if he will make a statement; [86835]

(3) what steps are being taken to clean up radioactive contamination at *(a)* RAF Kinloss, *(b)* RAF Machrihanish, *(c)* RNAS Donibristle, *(d)* DARA Almondbank and *(e)* Stirling Forthside; [86836]

(4) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of cleaning up radioactive contamination at each contaminated site in Scotland for which his Department is responsible in each of the next five years; [86837]

**Mr Robathan:** Information on the source of the contamination and actions undertaken are as follows:

| *Site* | *Source of contamination* | *Action* |
|---|---|---|
| RAF Kinloss | Luminised Artefacts | LQA process ongoing |
| RAF Machrihanish | Luminised Artefacts | Remediation undertaken |
| RNAS Donibristle | Luminised Artefacts | Remediation undertaken |
| DARA Almondbank | Luminised Artefacts | Working with current owners to undertake remediation |
| Stirling Forthside | Luminised Artefacts | Remediation undertaken |

Land Quality Assessment (LQA) reports for each of the sites will be placed in the Library of the House.

The cost to the public purse of remediating contaminated sites is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However as at December 2011 the MOD has spent in excess of £500,000 on remediation.

### Aircraft Carriers

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the current catapult and trap design for the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers and the compatibility of the F-35C aircraft with its main 7.1 foot landing gear to arrestor hook distance. [87594]

**Peter Luff:** Our investigations into the conversion of the operational Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier are still ongoing, but it remains our intent that the catapult and arrestor gear equipment to be installed will be fully compatible with the more capable F-35C strike fighters.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what comparison he has made of the size of the traps planned for the *(a)* Queen Elizabeth class and *(b)* Gerald Ford class aircraft carriers. [87595]

**Peter Luff:** Our investigations into the conversion of the operational Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier are still ongoing, but at this stage, the arrangement and size of the arrestor gear system is the same as that used in the Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier. However, the exact arrangement of components and sub-systems will differ due to the differences in ship size and compartment layout.

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received an interim report on the carrier variant conversion investigation; and if not, when he expects to receive such a report. [88562]

**Peter Luff:** Investigations into the conversion of the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carrier to operate the Carrier Variant of the Joint Strike Fighter are due to conclude in December 2012. The project team is continuing to mature and develop information, in conjunction with UK industry, which will be used to inform decisions on the final conversion solution. Ministers are routinely updated on the progress of this investigation.

As part of the Ministry of Defence approvals process, Ministers will be presented with the Department's full findings to allow them to consider the conversion options and take final decisions.

### Ammunition: Transport

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the security of ammunition when transported by *(a)* road and *(b)* rail. [87512]

**Peter Luff:** Statutory Instrument 1348—The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulation—details the security requirements for the transport of ammunition by road. Ministry of Defence (MOD) policy for the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail is contained in Joint Service Publication (JSP) 800 Volume 4B—Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Sea. JSP 800 incorporates the requirements of SI 1348 and includes additional security measures for the transport of those goods that have been assessed by MOD security to be attractive to criminal and terrorist organisations.

Each transport operation, including those conducted by approved contractors, is assessed and conducted in accordance with these requirements. MOD policy is reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains in line with legislation and all units and establishments involved in the transport of dangerous goods are audited to ensure compliance.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he is considering the introduction of any new security measures for the transportation by road of projectile ammunition; and if he will make a statement. [87513]

**Peter Luff:** Responsibility for policy on the transport of dangerous goods by road rests with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, not my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence. The safety and security requirements are laid down in Statutory Instrument 1348—The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations.

The Ministry of Defence fully complies with the security requirements for the transportation of ammunition by road and rail and in addition, conducts a full risk assessment for each transport operation in accordance with the extant security alert state.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures exist to ensure that drivers of ammunition lorries are not under the influence of alcohol while at work. [87514]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) regards the issue of driving while under the influence of alcohol very seriously. MOD policy prohibits the consumption of alcohol while on duty, including those periods when "on call".

Policy requires that all drivers reporting for duty are assessed by their line manager for fitness to drive and only if they meet the necessary standards are they allowed to take charge of a vehicle.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the last review of arrangements for the security of ammunition transported by road was conducted. [87515]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) conducts regular reviews of policy to ensure full compliance with national and international legislation. The reviews are timed to coincide with the release of the legislative amendments to the transport of dangerous goods regulations.

MOD policy for the transport of dangerous goods by road was last reviewed in November 2011.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether civilian personnel have been used in place of *(a)* Ministry of Defence Police and *(b)* military personnel to escort ammunition convoys from any UK military base in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [87626]

(2) what training he requires for escorts employed for the transport of ammunition by road; [87627]

(3) if he will introduce regulations to ensure that ammunition lorries are escorted by trained Ministry of Defence Police or military personnel; and if he will make a statement. [87628]

**Peter Luff:** The training requirements for personnel involved in the transport of ammunition by road are contained in Statutory Instrument (SI) 1348—The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations and ADR (Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road). This Statutory Instrument also requires that all carriers and consignors engaged in the carriage of "High Consequence" dangerous goods (including ammunition) adopt, implement and comply with a security plan.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) policy for the security of ammunition during transport is contained in Joint Service Publication (JSP) 440—Defence Manual of Security and JSP 800 Volume 4B—Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Sea, which incorporates the requirements of SI 1348 and ADR. JSP 800 sets out the awareness and functional training that personnel, including escorts, who are involved in the transport of Dangerous Goods need to undertake. The training provided includes function specific, safety and security competences.

The requirement for the provision of Attendants (escorts) when transporting ammunition was removed from legislation in 2009. The MOD has chosen as a policy decision to retain the requirement for Attendants (escorts) to ensure the security of those goods assessed as being attractive to criminal and terrorist organisations during transport operations.

Where the transport operation is conducted utilising MOD owned vehicles, the drivers and escorts are either serving military personnel or civil servants employed by the MOD.

Where the transport operation is conducted utilising commercial contractors, the contractor is selected from a MOD maintained list of approved hauliers. These hauliers are subject to Section 5 of the Firearms Act and have been cleared for the transport of ammunition.

The MOD has no plans to mandate the use of MOD Police or military personnel to escort vehicles transporting ammunition, however, where there is any change to the extant security alert state the requirement for commercial carriers to be escorted by military personnel is assessed.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what occasions lorries loaded with ammunition have been involved in *(a)* collisions and *(b)* major mechanical breakdowns in the last 10 years. [87629]

**Peter Luff:** During the past 10 years, there have been 34 recorded incidents of collisions involving vehicles carrying ammunition. The vast majority of these were low impact or low speed workplace collisions. In all cases the ammunition had been prepared, packed, loaded and secured in accordance with the applicable transport regulations and the incidents had no effect on the ammunition being transported. It is not possible to provide accurate details of the number of major mechanical breakdowns involving vehicles carrying ammunition. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Under Ministry of Defence policy and process/measures are in place to ensure that, in the event of a breakdown, the vehicle is recovered to a place of safety for supervised and controlled cross loading, where necessary.

### Armed Forces: Animals

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many dogs have been employed by his Department in the last year; what their duties were; and what the cost of such employment was; [88317]

(2) how many animals of each species were employed by his Department in 2011; and what the total cost to the public purse was; [88340]

(3) how many horses were employed by his Department in 2011; for what purposes; and at what cost to the public purse. [88341]

**Mr Robathan:** As at 1 November 2011 the following animals were employed by the Ministry of Defence:

992 working dogs, of which 324 were search dogs, 409 were guard dogs and 259 were "multipurpose" (ie search and guard).

499 horses, all of which were in a ceremonial role.

13 falcons, utilised by the Royal Navy for runway clearance.

In addition, the following animals act as official mascots:

Two drum horses
Three dogs
Three mountain goats
One swaledale ram
Two Shetland ponies

Information related to the cost of maintaining these animals is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Education

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with Fife Council on any requirement for additional school places in the Leuchars area when the Army takes up its base there. [88351]

**Mr Robathan:** Preliminary discussions have taken place with a number of local authorities affected by the Basing Review programme. It is too early at this time to comment on any specific issues.

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army personnel and *(b)* Army personnel who had enlisted under the age of 18 undertook GCSE English or mathematics qualifications during (i) their Phase Two training or (ii) subsequently; and how many achieved these qualifications at Grades A* to C in the latest period for which figures are available. [88556]

**Mr Robathan:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Army encourages and supports a programme of personal continuous improvement throughout Army careers and aims for personnel to achieve at least Level 1 (GCSE Grade D to G) within three years of enlistment.

### Armed Forces: Food

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Single Food Supply expenditure was incurred by his Department for personnel not on military operations in 2010-11. [87921]

**Peter Luff:** In financial year 2010-11 the cost of food provision under the Single Food Supply contract for armed forces personnel who were not on military operations was approximately £65 million.

### Armed Forces: Military Decorations

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the case for allowing more medals to be worn by armed forces personnel which have been awarded by Commonwealth countries; and if he will make a statement. [88345]

**Mr Robathan:** The Government recognise that the rules on the award of medals have not always been applied consistently. The Committee of the Grant of Honours, Decoration and Medals recently recommended to Her Majesty the Queen that holders of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal should be allowed to wear it. In order to address concerns expressed in both Houses of Parliament and by members of the public the Government have agreed to a fresh review of the rules governing the award of military medals. This will be conducted by an independent reviewer involving full consultation with interested parties.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the case for a National Defence Medal; and if he will make a statement. [88346]

**Mr Robathan:** I am aware of the campaign for a National Defence Medal. It remains our policy that medals should not be awarded just for service. Nevertheless, the Government have recently agreed to a fresh review of the rules governing the award of military medals. This will be conducted by an independent reviewer involving full consultation with interested parties. The terms of reference and further details will be released in the near future.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the case for the Honours and Decorations Committee to accept representations in person from veterans; and if he will make a statement; [88347]

(2) whether he has considered the case for the Honours and Decorations Committee to meet in public; and if he will make a statement; [88687]

(3) whether he has considered reconstitution of the Honours and Decorations Committee under an independent chair; and if he will make a statement. [88688]

**Mr Robathan:** The Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals (known generally as the HD Committee) is a sub-committee of the Cabinet and as such the Ministry of Defence has made no assessment of the proposal to accept representations in person from veterans, or other aspects of its operation.

The HD Committee is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and has representatives from several Government Departments. It is a permanent standing advisory committee to which the Sovereign looks for independent and informed advice on policy concerning honours, decorations and medals. It was established in 1939, has no direct ministerial involvement and reports directly to Her Majesty the Queen.

However, we recognise that the rules applicable to the award of medals have not always been applied consistently. As a result the Government have recently agreed to a fresh review of the rules governing the award of military medals. This will be conducted by an independent reviewer involving full consultation with interested parties.

## Armed Forces: Recruitment

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of recruits who enlisted in the Army under the age of 18 joined the infantry in the latest period for which figures are available. [88554]

**Mr Robathan:** In financial year 2010-11 the total number of recruits enlisting in the Army under the age of 18 was 2,310 of which 1,050 (46%) joined the Infantry.

## Armed Forces: Training

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of all new recruits enlisting in *(a)* the armed forces and *(b)* the Army undertook Phase One training at (i) AFC Harrogate and (ii) AFTC Winchester in 2010-11. [88337]

**Nick Harvey:** The Army Foundation College Harrogate and the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester are phase 1 training units for junior entry soldiers. Recruits enlisting in the Royal Navy or the Royal Air Force do not attend either of these colleges.

During the period September 2010 to September 2011, a total of 9,770 recruits enlisted in the Army of which 2,114 (21.6%) undertook phase 1 training at the Army Foundation College Harrogate and 950 (9.7%) undertook phase 1 training at the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester.

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of recruits undertaking Phase One training at *(a)* the Army Foundation College in Harrogate and *(b)* the Army Technical Foundation College in Winchester successfully attained (i) Level 1 functional skills in literacy, (ii) Level 1 functional skills in numeracy, (iii) a Level 2 ITQ diploma, (iv) Level 2 functional skills in literacy and (v) Level 2 functional skills in numeracy in the most recent period for which figures are available. [88555]

**Nick Harvey:** All recruits training at the Army Foundation College Harrogate undertake vocational qualifications. All soldiers are enrolled on a level 2 apprenticeship for IT users which consists of the level 2 iTQ diploma for IT users along with functional skills (FS) in literacy and numeracy at level 1. All those who achieve level 1 FS in literacy and numeracy during the programme have the additional opportunity to achieve those skills at level 2.

The number of junior soldiers enrolled on the Army apprenticeship at the Army Foundation College Harrogate on the last intake for which figures are available (September 2010 to August 2011) was 536. The numbers and percentage of those achieving the qualifications requested are as follows:

| *Qualification* | *Number of passes* | *Percentage of enrolled* |
|---|---|---|
| Literacy level 1 | 521 | 97 |
| Numeracy level 1 | 456 | 87 |
| Level 2 iTQ diploma | 536 | 100 |
| Literacy level 2 | 281 | 52 |
| Numeracy level 2 | 262 | 49 |

The purpose of phase 1 education at the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester is to set in place the academic foundation that the recruits will require in order to succeed at their chosen apprenticeships in phase 2. Most recruits upon enlisting at the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester already hold qualifications at level 1 in literacy and numeracy.

The numbers and percentage of those recruits taking and achieving the qualifications requested while attending the last intake at the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester for which figures are available (March to September 2011) are as follows:

| *Qualification* | *Numbers taking* | *Number of passes* | *Percentage of passes* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Literacy level 1 | 58 | 28 | 48 |
| Numeracy level 1 | 31 | 20 | 65 |
| Literacy level 2 | 156 | 16 | 10 |
| Numeracy level 2 | 36 | 17 | 47 |

The level 2 iTQ diploma is not undertaken at the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester.

## Arms Trade

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* bi-lateral and *(b)* multi-lateral meetings (i) he and (ii) his officials have had with their international counterparts to discuss the agreement of a robust arms trade treaty in preparation for the final Preparatory Committee in February 2012. [88050]

**Nick Harvey:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence fully supports efforts to secure an arms trade treaty (ATT). He and other Ministers are fully engaged in developments on ATT and have discussed this issue with their counterparts in the course of normal Defence business.

Her Majesty's Government, led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is working closely with international counterparts to secure an ATT and Ministry of Defence officials have contributed to this work where appropriate.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure a transparent reporting mechanism and effective monitoring and verification procedures are part of any agreement on the arms trade treaty. [88052]

**Nick Harvey:** The UK already reports details of exports across a number of treaties and regimes, including the Wassenaar Arrangement; the UN Register of Conventional Arms; and the Annual Review of Strategic Export Controls. Ministry of Defence officials are working closely with their colleagues in other Government Departments to argue for effective and transparent reporting mechanisms as part of an arms trade treaty, including procedures on monitoring and verification. These issues are regularly raised in meetings with other states and during the UN negotiations.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution his Department is making to developing policy on the inclusion of import, export, re-export, transit, transhipment, brokering activities and the gifting, loan or lease of arms within the terms of the arms trade treaty. [88056]

**Nick Harvey:** The UK supports an arms trade treaty (ATT) with a broad scope that covers a range of activities and transfers. Ministry of Defence officials, as part of a cross-Whitehall team on ATT, have held a number of technical meetings on different aspects of the treaty, including how different types of transfer and activity could be dealt with by an ATT, and these meetings will continue as we approach the UN conference in July 2012.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's officials at each grade are working on the arms trade treaty negotiations; whether there has been any change in the personnel leading on this matter; and whether he expects any further changes to be made before July 2012. [88061]

**Nick Harvey:** Two officials from the Department's Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation branch cover arms trade treaty issues and are active members of the cross-Whitehall team which is led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. These officials are able to call upon other specialist advice from within the Department as required. There have been no changes to the personnel leading on this matter since June 2011 and it is not expected that there will be any changes to personnel before July 2012.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution his Department has made to policy development on including small arms, light weapons and ammunition within the terms of the arms trade treaty. [88614]

**Nick Harvey:** The UK supports a comprehensive scope for an arms trade treaty (ATT), including small arms, light weapons and ammunition. Ministry of Defence officials, as part of a cross-Whitehall team on ATT, have held a number of technical meetings on different aspects of the treaty, including on the treaty's scope, and these meetings will continue as we approach the UN conference in July 2012.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which representatives from his Department have attended each of the UN Preparatory Committee meetings for the international arms trade treaty; and which representatives from his Department will attend the meeting in February 2012. [88618]

**Nick Harvey:** Representatives from the Department's Arms Control and Counter Proliferation branch have attended previous preparatory committee meetings on the arms trade treaty. The exact size and make-up of the UK delegation for the preparatory committee meeting in February 2012 will be finalised shortly.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure negotiations for an arms trade treaty in 2012 include representatives from civil society, non-governmental organisations and the defence industry. [88619]

**Nick Harvey:** Civil society and non-governmental organisations have played a crucial role in the progress made on an arms trade treaty (ATT) so far, including through regular meetings with UK officials engaged on ATT. Ambassador Moritan of Argentina, the Chair of the UN process on ATT, has ensured that civil society retained a voice during the negotiations, and the Ministry of Defence, as part of the UK's negotiation team will continue to support this approach at the UN conference in 2012.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department provides *(a)* training and *(b)* detailed briefings on the Arms Trade treaty to staff working in overseas posts; and what steps he is taking to ensure that the treaty is raised in all relevant bi-lateral meetings. [88695]

**Nick Harvey:** The UK maintains a leading global position on an Arms Trade treaty (ATT). Updates and briefings on the treaty are regularly provided to, overseas Defence posts and senior officials in co-ordination with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. ATT is regularly raised in bilateral and multilateral meetings with states and this outreach will intensify as we approach the crucial Negotiating Conference in July 2012.

## Challenger Tanks

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on deploying Challenger 2 tanks in combat operations before the outcome of the review of the CHARM3 weapon system under Article 36 of Additional Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. [87757]

**Nick Harvey:** Challenger 2 tanks will be deployed in combat operations as and when the security situation demands.

## Challenger Tanks: International Law

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans have been put in place in the event that the outcome of the review of the legality of the CHARM3 weapon system under Article 36 of Additional Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 concludes that its use could breach international humanitarian law. [87758]

**Nick Harvey:** CHARM3 provides our armed forces with a unique anti-armour capability which cannot be provided by other munitions. Consequently there are no such contingency plans in place.

## Debt Collection

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88365]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence does not use debt recovery agencies.

## Defence Supplies

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's contractors *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have met to discuss his proposed Defence White Paper since July 2011. [88561]

**Peter Luff:** Ministry of Defence Ministers and officials have regular meetings with industry representatives. In recent months this has included discussion over the forthcoming White Paper on technology, equipment and support. In particular there have been meetings of the Defence Suppliers Forum on 14 July 2011 and of its SME group on 16 September 2011.

## Defence: Inflation

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the average rate of inflation in the defence industry in each year since 2006. [86827]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) publishes an annual estimate of defence inflation. This is based on data relating to inflation within defence contracts, military and civilian personnel labour costs, and cash office expenditure.

The following table draws on these published data to show the estimated defence inflation between 2005-06 and 2010-11.

*Defence inflation in the UK, 2005-06 to 2010-11*

| | *All Defence (UK)*[2] | | *Contracts*[3,4] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Weights*[1,4] | *1,000* | | *644* | |
| *Financial year* | *Index and growth rate* | | | |
| 2004-05 | 100.0 | — | 100.0 | — |
| 2005-06 | 104.1 | 4.1% | 103.4 | 3.4% |
| 2006-07 | 107.6 | 3.4% | 106.9 | 3.4% |
| 2007-08 | 111.8 | 3.9% | 110.9 | 3.7% |
| 2008-09 | 116.5 | 4.2% | 115.5 | 4.2% |
| 2009-10 | 120.2 | 3.2% | 118.4 | 2.5% |
| 2010-11[2] | 125.2 | 4.2% | 122.9 | 3.8% |

[1] These weights apply to the 2010-11 measure. Due to chain-linking, weights reflect the expenditure pattern within the base year not the reference year, e.g. for the 2010-11 inflation measure weights reflect expenditure in 2009-10.

[2] From 2010-11, the methodology for estimating inflation in military labour costs was reviewed and improved following availability of new data sources. The change in methodology means direct comparisons of 2010-11 defence inflation rates with historical estimates are not possible.

[3] Inflation in defence contracts represents inflation in the expenditure by the Department on contracts, major equipment projects and payments.

[4] In 2009-10, 64% of defence expenditure was on contracts: with a further 34% on labour costs and 2% on cash offices.

The MOD does not collect data or publish inflation within the defence industry. It does produce statistics relating to inflation in defence contracts, at the following web address:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=INFLATION

## Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87343]

**Mr Robathan:** The information for dates requested is not held, but the figures compiled on the closest available dates are as follows:

| | | *Headcount* |
|---|---|---|
| | *1 May 2010* | *1 November 2011*[1] |
| *UK armed forces full-time* | | |
| Trained strength[2] | [1]178,400 | [1]173,830 |
| Civilian personnel[3] | 89,770 | 79,240 |

| | | Headcount |
|---|---|---|
| | *1 May 2010* | *1 November 2011*[1] |
| Total personnel | [1]268,170 | [1]153,070 |

[1] Denotes provisional—May 2010 Service personnel figures are 'provisional' due to poor data quality which is currently under review.
[2] Full-time trained strength comprises trained UK regular forces, trained Gurkhas and elements of the full-time reserve service (PTRS) that may be deployed overseas, including Full Commitment (FC), Limited Commitment (LC), Home Commitment (HC) personnel. Figures do not include mobilised reservists, Long Term Absentees and untrained personnel.
[2] Civilian personnel includes all full and part-time, permanent and casual personnel employed within MOD Core TLBs, Trading Funds, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Locally engaged civilians.
*Notes:*
1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
2. November 2011 civilian figures are 'provisional' due to non-availability of some locally engaged civilian data.

Further details in respect of service personnel can be found via the following link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=160&date=2011-12-01&PublishTime=09:30:00

### Departmental Pay

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85081]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* I can confirm that none of the senior staff in the Ministry of Defence, its Executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

### Procurement

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures his Department has put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been realised through use of such procedures in the last year. [83640]

**Peter Luff:** Obtaining value for money is an integral part of any purchasing decision. The strategic defence and security review, the planning round, defence reform and particularly defence acquisition reform have all been part of the process of promoting value for money in defence spending. In addition, internal guidance for personnel on purchasing emphasise the key objective of obtaining value for money, and ensure that the business cases required for any significant expenditure set out the value for money implications of the proposal. For the most significant categories of expenditure, decisions are taken on the orders of the Investment Approval Committee, which is chaired by the Department's director general of finance, and which has a firm focus on value for money. In addition, the Defence Financial Management Reform team are currently pursuing work to strengthen the Department's financial management, based on key recommendation from Lord Levene's Review that:

> "Financial management throughout the Department should be considerably strengthened and there should be a widely-shared culture of managing Defence within available resources and realistic assumptions about the longer-term budget. At the centre, the DG Finance should be a member of the new Defence Board, chair its Investment Approvals Committee and set standards and policy for financial management across Defence. Responsibility and accountability should be aligned for all TLB holders, with responsibility and budgets for detailed capability planning passing to the Service Chiefs and Commander Joint Force Command."

There is no separate record of savings achieved.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which contracts his Department has renegotiated following the Strategic Defence and Security Review; what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse arising from each contract renegotiation; and what legal costs were incurred in each case. [87590]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) was required to review approximately 500 extant contracts across 100 equipment programmes with a total value of in excess of £10 billion over the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period as a result of decisions taken in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. Initial focus has been on the contracts that will deliver the highest savings in the early years of the CSR period. The MOD has already renegotiated around 30 contracts relating to the Nimrod and Harrier programmes. Considerable effort is proceeding within the MOD on this activity and we expect the process of renegotiating these contracts to continue well into 2012.

It would be inappropriate to comment on specific contracts, as the details of each negotiation are commercial in confidence.

### Documentation: Security

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what structure his Department uses for the security classification of documents; when it was last reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [87724]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence uses the Government Protective Marking Scheme for the security classification of its documents as mandated in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework . The current scheme was issued in March 2009.

### Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [88005]

**Mr Robathan:** External recruitment to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for grades below the senior civil service (SCS) is carried out by Defence Business Services Civilian HR (formerly known as the People Pay and Pensions Agency). Where external recruitment for SCS posts is required, recruitment agencies may be asked to carry out an initial search for suitable candidates. In the months in question, the MOD spent the following amounts on recruitment agency fees in connection with SCS level recruitment:

| *2011* | *£* |
|---|---|
| September | 7,998.00 |
| October | 9,989.90 |

| 2011 | £ |
|---|---|
| November | 3,938.28 |

*Note:*
All figures are inclusive of VAT.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [88003]

**Mr Robathan:** No redundancy payments have been made to Ministry of Defence civil servants who left between September and November 2011 in response to the savings required by the strategic defence and security review. The Department's aim is that, so far as possible, the necessary savings will be made without recourse to compulsory redundancy. We have, however, made compensation payments as follows to 2,503 civil servants over that period who have left the Department under our voluntary early release scheme, launched in February.

| *2011* | *Staff numbers* | *Compensation (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| September | 46 | 1.78 |
| October | 1,608 | 47.79 |
| November | 849 | 25.86 |

### Services: Social Value

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85654]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence, and its public bodies, commission services on the basis of value for money, which is defined as the optimum combination of quality and through life costs to meet the requirement. Our policy is that social value may be included in the requirement provided it is consistent with ensuring value for money for the taxpayer, is relevant to the subject of the contract, delivers a benefit to the contracting authority and complies with the principles of EU procurement law.

### Departmental Travel

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75533]

**Mr Robathan:** Expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on first-class travel booked through the Defence travel contract has been as follows:

|  | *2010-11* | £<br>*2011-12 (to end September)* |
|---|---|---|
| Air | 31,201 | 4,518 |
| Boat | [1]— | [1]— |
| Rail | 226,154 | 30,087 |

[1] Not recorded discretely.

Figures for travel arranged outside the Defence travel contract are not held but most air and rail travel is booked through the contract. We have made substantial savings in the amount of travel made first-class in the past few years, comparable figures for 2009-10 being £230,000 (estimated) for first-class air travel and £5.6 million for first-class rail travel.

Defence Ministers do not travel first-class by air and MOD staff are not permitted to travel first-class by air. In exceptional circumstances, first-class accommodation on an aircraft may be authorised for medical evacuations, on medical advice, or for compassionate reasons where there is no practical alternative to first-class accommodation.

First-class travel by rail is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Such travel must be authorised in advance by a senior officer or official, taking account of any management benefit or the needs of staff with disabilities, in accordance with the civilian or service regulations as appropriate.

Where first-class air or rail travel is proved to contravene departmental rules, we will take appropriate disciplinary action.

### Voluntary Work

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what volunteering *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76244]

**Mr Robathan:** Ministers carry out their duties in line with the Ministerial Code. Any volunteering activities in a personal capacity are a private matter for them. Relevant interests, which may include voluntary activities, are published by the Cabinet Office in the List of Ministers' Interests.

### Ex-servicemen: Employment

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 472W, on ex-servicemen: employment, how many of those who secured employment within six months of leaving retained that employment for six months or longer. [87928]

**Mr Robathan:** This information is not collected by the Ministry of Defence as it would require former service personnel to notify the Department when they have obtained or changed employment.

### Ex-servicemen: War Pensions

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many war pensions were paid to nuclear test veterans in each of the last six years. [88314]

**Mr Robathan:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The war pensions computer system does not have the facility to uniquely identify people who participated in nuclear tests and who receive a war disablement pension.

Compensation in the form of a war disablement pension is available to all former members of HM forces who suffer disablement which is attributable to service prior to 6 April 2005, including nuclear test veterans. The causal link may be with any part of their service. There are currently 140,000 war pensions in payment.

### Gurkhas: Pensions

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Gurkha recipients of UK service pensions who until May 2009 received those pensions in Nepal, now receive them in the UK; [88071]

(2) how many former Gurkhas have been in receipt of a UK service pension in Nepal in each year since 2004. [88072]

**Mr Robathan:** Details of how many former Gurkhas have been in receipt of a UK service pension in Nepal in each year since 2004 and those who, until May 2009, received their pensions in Nepal but now receive them in the UK, are not held.

### Japan Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87600]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010-30 June 2011 can be accessed on the Ministry of Defence website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/

Information for 1 July 2011 onwards will be published in due course.

### Jordan Bancroft

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of his Department's treatment of the parents of deceased soldier Jordan Bancroft. [87586]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence regrets any unintended insensitivity on its part and a complete review of all the correspondence undertaken by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency with bereaved families has been instigated.

It is departmental policy never to ask the families of those killed in service to pay money back. Our aim is always to ensure families receive the right amount of money as quickly as possible and to conduct a reconciliation of their pay accounts as soon as we have all the information available to us. We do not collect any money from the families of deceased personnel, but we do adjust future payments to ensure families receive all the money to which they are entitled; this includes a payment for any unspent days of leave.

### Military Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to take delivery from Lockheed Martin of the three joint combat aircraft with serial numbers *(a)* BK-1, *(b)* BK-2 and *(c)* CF-17; and where these aircraft will undergo initial operational testing and evaluation. [87400]

**Peter Luff:** Subject to both aircraft completing production at Lockheed Martin and undergoing satisfactory acceptance checks we expect to take delivery of the UK's first two Joint Strike Fighter aircraft (BK-1 and BK-2) in May 2012. CF-17 is the designation for a United States Marine Corps aircraft which we have agreed in principle to exchange for the UK's BK-3 aircraft. We have yet to finalise the details of this exchange with the US. CF-17 is likely to be re-titled CK-1.

Initial operational testing and evaluation will be conducted jointly with the US services at Edwards Air Force Base in California, following pilot and maintainer training at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the first Airbus 330-200 Voyager will be delivered to RAF Brize Norton; and when he expects it to be fully operational; [87587]

(2) what the payment schedule is for the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft programme; [87588]

(3) what technical issues were observed during the in-flight refuelling test between the Tornado GR.4 and Airbus A330-200. [87589]

**Peter Luff:** The first Airbus 330-200 Voyager aircraft was dispatched to the AirTanker Ltd facility at RAF Brize Norton on 22 December 2011. This will allow the company to undertake the work required to register the aircraft; obtain the Civilian Aviation Authority Certificate of Airworthiness; prepare for handover and undertake familiarisation training for its staff.

The in-service date for the programme is May 2014 when nine aircraft are available for Air-Air-Refuelling.

The Voyager payment mechanism ensures the Ministry of Defence only pays for the service delivered. Payments are made against availability (number of aircraft booked per day) and usage.

Ground and Air-Air-Refuelling trials between the Voyager aircraft and Tornado GR.4 are continuing and progress has been made. During a trials programme, issues emerged on the stability of the hose and fuel leakage. Such incidents are not unusual in trials. Engineering solutions for these issues have been identified and are being developed.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of recent reports concerning the *(a)* Helmet mounted display system, *(b)* structural airframe and *(c)* fuel tank venting and arrestor hook system on the F-35C aircraft. [87593]

**Peter Luff:** We continue to closely monitor all aspects of the Joint Strike Fighter development programme. The Ministry of Defence is fully aware of the issues referred to by the hon. Member and believes that such issues are to be expected during a complex development programme. Corrective action, led by the US programme team and at no extra cost to the UK, is under way for each of the issues and there are no indications of any fundamental design risks.

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish his Department's policy including legal assessment on the use of strike-equipped drone aircraft. [87950]

**Nick Harvey:** A range of capabilities is available to UK forces operating in Afghanistan including the Reaper armed Remotely Piloted Aircraft System. The UK Reaper system does not have the capability to deploy weapons autonomously and can only release its weapons when commanded to do so by the fully trained and qualified flight crew operating on the ground. The policy governing the use of Reaper is identical to that for conventionally piloted combat aircraft operating in Afghanistan. UK forces in Afghanistan come under the command of the NATO International Security and Assistance Forces (ISAF) and in doing so operate in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) (also known as the Law of Armed Conflict) and UK Rules of Engagement. Military lawyers based in Afghanistan advise on all aspects of operations and the selection and prosecution of all ISAF targets is the subject of a rigorous process that is compliant with IHL.

### Military Attachés

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries have British defence attachés; and what the cost of these was to his Department in 2011. [88339]

**Mr Gerald Howarth:** As the hon. Member knows, defence attachés are appointed to Diplomatic Heads of Missions' staff as the Chief of the Defence Staff's representative and Head of the Defence Section to represent the Ministry of Defence and UK armed forces. They work closely with their host governments to pursue close bilateral defence relationships, build partnerships between our armed forces and provide bespoke military support to Her Majesty's Government's policy priorities to protect and promote the UK's influence and interests. Defence attachés' unique relationships and access deliver disproportionate soft power projection and influence. They work to promote British values and regional policies, advance regional development and prevent conflict. They deliver significant effect to counter terrorism, support conflict resolution in fragile states and where appropriate, provide specialist knowledge and influence to assist to build UK prosperity.

The UK has defence attachés and advisers in 71 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria Hub (covering Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Kosovo, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland,), Bahrain, Baltic States (Estonia), Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland (non resident, accredited from London), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal (non resident, accredited from London), Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Somalia (based in Kenya), Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America (with a further attaché to the UK Mission to UN New York), Uzbekistan, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Between them these attachés and advisers cover a further 74 countries through the process of non-resident accreditation. Those countries are: Albania, Angola, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cape Verde Islands, Cayman Islands, Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, East Timor, Eritrea, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Ivory Coast, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Mozambique, Puerto Rico, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Seychelles, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, The Gambia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zambia.

We keep the location of defence attachés under review.

In 2010-11 the total costs of provision of defence attaché and adviser cover to these countries was £43,623, 976, of which £31,828, 619 was attaché costs and £11,803,356 Foreign and Commonwealth Office charges for provision of service accommodation.

It is expected that costs for the year 2011-12 will be of a very similar order.

### Military Bases: Kirknewton

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 91W, on military bases: Kirknewton, on what basis Kirknewton was assessed as offering best value for money; and if he will make a statement. [86641]

**Nick Harvey:** On 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, the previous Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), set out the basis for the decisions made during the Basing Review.

A key aim for the review was to set out a geographical footprint for Army units returning from Germany that delivered the operational and personnel requirements, and made the most efficient use of the existing Defence estate.

We therefore outlined a broad strategy of changing the usage of under-used sites, including making Kirknewton an Army barracks, and realising receipts from the sale of high-value sites no longer required. Detailed value for money assessments will be made only as specific decisions are taken and changes made.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Defence Basing Review Team was provided with estimates of the cost of building new barracks at Kirknewton, West Lothian prior to 18 July 2011. [86644]

**Nick Harvey:** The Defence Basing Review included a 'rough order of magnitude' estimate for the cost of construction required at Kirknewton to make it ready for use by part of a Multi Role Brigade.

### Motorways: Fires

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location was of each incident on motorways and approaches to motorways involving fires in vehicles carrying ammunition in each of the last five years. [86953]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has no record of any incident on motorways, or approaches to motorways, that have involved fires in MOD vehicles carrying ammunition during the last five years. There was however a commercial vehicle moving ammunition on behalf of the MOD that suffered a brake fire in the cab unit. The incident happened on the morning of 22 August 2011 at the Crown Lane roundabout on the A4042. The fire brigade was called, but before they arrived on scene the driver and escort of the lorry had de-coupled the cab unit from the trailer and extinguished the fire. The vehicle was compliant with UK and EU regulations on the movement of dangerous goods.

### Navy

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Royal Navy ships are *(a)* at sea, *(b)* ready for deployment, *(c)* at reduced readiness and *(d)* mothballed; and if he will make a statement. [86825]

**Peter Luff:** The number of Royal Navy vessels available for active service are detailed in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Landing Platform Helicopter | [1]2 |
| Landing Platform Dock | 2 |
| Type 45 Destroyer | 3 |
| Type 42 Destroyer | 3 |
| Type 23 Frigate | 13 |
| Hunt Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel | 8 |
| Sandown Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel | 7 |
| River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels | 3 |
| River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels (Helicopter) | 1 |
| P2000 Patrol Boats | 18 |
| Ocean Survey Vessels | 1 |
| Coastal Survey Vessels | 3 |
| Ice Patrol Ship | 1 |
| Ships Submersible Ballistic Nuclear | 4 |
| Ship Submersible Nuclear | 7 |

[1] HMS Illustrious is now operating in the Landing Platform Helicopter role, as well as HMS Ocean.

As at 15 December 2011, 23 Royal Navy vessels are currently at sea. This figure changes on a daily basis.

Each of these units will be progressing through different readiness states in response to our operational needs, together with maintenance and training programmes, and the harmony requirements of their ships' companies. The Royal Navy categorises the readiness of its ships in accordance with the following table which is taken from the National Audit Office report 'Assessing and Reporting Military Readiness', published on 15 June 2005, which is available in the Library of the House.

| *Readiness category* | *Abbreviation* | *Description* |
|---|---|---|
| Immediate Readiness | RO | Force elements ready to deploy, appropriately manned, equipped and supported |
| Extremely High Readiness | R1 | At 2 days notice |
| Very High Readiness | R2 | At 5 days notice |
| | R3 | At 10 days notice |
| High Readiness | R4 | At 20 days notice |
| | R5 | At 30 days notice |
| Medium Readiness | R6 | At 40 days notice |
| | R7 | At 60 days notice |
| | R8 | At 90 days notice |
| Low Readiness | R9 | At 180 days notice |
| Very Low Readiness | R10 | At 365 days notice |
| | R11 | More than 365 days notice |

We do not reveal the readiness level of individual ships as to do so would enable deductions to be made about the condition and preparedness of units and of the Navy. This would therefore be prejudicial to the safety of individual units and to national security.

As the term "mothballed" is not used by the Department for the condition of a ship, I have interpreted your question as referring to very low readiness. As of December 2011, the Royal Navy has no ships in this category.

HMS Endurance remains a Royal Navy asset, although not operational.

### Nimrod Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what electronic equipment from the *(a)* Nimrod MR2 and *(b)* Nimrod MR4A has been installed on (i) aircraft and (ii) naval vessels. [87596]

**Peter Luff:** No complete Nimrod MR2 or Nimrod MRA4 electronic system has been installed on other aircraft or naval vessels. However, a number of platforms have benefited from being able to utilise elements of electronic systems from Nimrod MR2 and Nimrod MRA4.

### Warships: Wrecks

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy not to sell the wrecks of Royal Navy ships on which there was loss of life. [86945]

**Mr Robathan:** Decisions on disposals of Royal Navy wrecks are taken on a case by case basis, having regard to the circumstances of the individual vessels. A major factor in any such decision would be whether or not the remains of a ship, sunk with loss of life, were considered as the last resting place of those who gave their lives. It is not current Ministry of Defence practice either to sell such wrecks or to issue salvage licences in respect of them.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question *(a)* 70848, *(b)* 70850 and *(c)* 70851, on procurement contracts, tabled on 5 September 2011 for answer on 7 September 2011; and if he will make a statement. [86839]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 796W.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts Council England

**Chris Kelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the value for money of the funding provided for The Public Arts Centre; [88657]

(2) if he will assess the findings of the report by Anthony Blackstock entitled The Public: Lessons learned by Arts Council England. [88658]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England (ACE) commissioned Anthony Blackstock's report 'The Public: Lessons learned by Arts Council England', the contents of which have been noted by this Department. ACE has adopted measures that significantly reduce the level of risk for future projects and its new capital programme reflects the recommendations made in the report. ACE's response to the report is publicly available at:

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/pdf/Alan_Davey_response_to_The_Public_report_31111.pdf

ACE funds projects at arm's length from Government and it is not for Government to intervene in individual funding decisions. ACE continues to monitor and assess the visitor numbers and building use of The Public Arts Centre.

### Arts Council England: Finance

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many organisations with cinema presentation facilities are regularly funded organisations of Arts Council England. [87103]

**Mr Vaizey:** Arts Council England does not collect data on the cinema presentation facilities of their regularly funded organisations, though does support such facilities as the Foundation for Art and Creative Technology in Liverpool and the Brewery Arts Centre in Kendal, which do have cinema presentation facilities.

### BBC: Expenditure

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will consider encouraging the BBC to publish all invoices in excess of £500. [85511]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* The Government encourages the BBC to be transparent in its financial matters and to take due account of the relevant Government guidance in this area.

### BBC: Licensing

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of revenue collected from the BBC licence fee is paid in Scotland. [88150]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department does not hold this information. The collection of TV licence fee revenue is the responsibility of the BBC but the BBC does not calculate revenue received by nation.

### Broadband

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many households have new broadband connections as a result of the Government working with house builders. [88714]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government have made no assessment of the number of new broadband connections as a result of working with house builders. The Publicly Available Specification: Next Generation Access for new build homes (PAS 2016) published in December 2010 is intended to provide developers and house builders with the information they need to make informed decisions on how to ensure homes are best-equipped for next generation connectivity.

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with BT on the provision of super-fast broadband to the third of the UK population in hard-to-reach communities. [88716]

**Mr Vaizey:** BT is one of the companies bidding to be part of the Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) framework contract and has been included in all the dialogue phases of the framework process.

### Broadband: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the progress of the roll-out of super-fast broadband in Scotland; [88148]

(2) if he will consider what additional funding can be made available to ensure that all communities in Scotland have access to broadband. [88149]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government remain committed to completing the UK broadband delivery programme by 2015. The Government therefore welcome the commitment in the Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan 2011 to add £50 million of Scottish Government funding and £25.5 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to the UK Government's £68.8 million allocation for Scotland that was announced in August The Government also look forward to seeing the Scottish Government's plans in the early part of 2012.

The Government recognise the particular technical and geographical challenges facing broadband roll-out in the more remote parts of Scotland and have proposed that a joint working group of officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Scottish Government look at these issues. Depending on the outcome of this work, the Government will be prepared to consider increasing the funding allocated to broadband in Scotland on the basis of a match funded approach, and subject to affordability.

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88594]

**John Penrose:** The Department has no plans to mark the UN Year of the Co-operative 2012.

The Department does not collate this information for its arm's length bodies centrally. It is for each body to choose whether and how they mark the year.

### Copyright: Music

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with the Performing Rights Society on ensuring that the royalty payment formula takes account of market barriers for UK-based minority language artists and provides adequate recompense for their cultural and linguistic contributions. [88434]

**Mr Vaizey:** This is a matter that needs to be resolved through discussions between the Performing Rights Society for music and their members. The Government do not have any role in this matter since collecting societies are independent commercial entities whose collecting society functions are not specifically regulated by the Government.

### Debt Collection

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88374]

**John Penrose:** The Department has not engaged any debt recovery companies in the period since May 2010. However, the recovery of grants made up to 1994 by the former English tourist board under section 4 of the Development of Tourism Act 1969 is handled as part of a grant-management contract with Stephen Lewis Consultancy. 'Section 4 grants' may become recoverable by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Hunt), on the sale of a grant-aided property or if the grant recipient goes into liquidation.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what public information advertising campaigns his Department ran in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2011-12 to date; and what the cost was of each campaign. [87397]

**John Penrose:** The Free Swimming toolkit in 2008-09 was a marketing and branding pack for participating local authorities to use to promote free swimming in their areas. It cost the Department £47,166.10.

There has been no other public information advertising campaign funded by this Department in 2009-12 although departmental bodies such as Visit Britain and Visit England also run marketing campaigns in partnership with the tourism industry as a core part of their role.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013. [88743]

**John Penrose:** The Department does not collate centrally the number of apprentices employed by each of its arm's length bodies (ALBs), and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Gentleman. Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

There are no expectations as to the number of future apprenticeships that each of the Department's ALBs will sponsor. These decisions are at the discretion of each body, and we do not hold a central record of these.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88744]

**John Penrose:** The Department does not collate centrally this information for our arms-length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write to the hon. Gentleman.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Food Procurement

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [86996]

**John Penrose:** The Department does not have its own food and catering service, following the closure of the staff canteen in December 2009.

However, we have spent £40,200.44 on hospitality provided by catering contractors Baxter Storey, during October 2010 to October 2011. We are unable to separately identify food costs from the overall figure.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88577]

**John Penrose:** The Equality Act 2010 removed the need to produce equality impact assessments and instead introduced an equality duty. Nonetheless DCMS has carried out an equality assessment on key areas of its work, including the October 2010 spending review when we considered all potential impacts of any resource reduction on particular groups, regions and the new appraisal system in April 2011.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87351]

**John Penrose:** The information requested is set out in the following table:

| *Date* | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| 11 May 2010 | 480 |
| 8 December 2011 | 487 |

The figures include staff temporarily on loan and secondment from other Government Departments for the Olympics. The Department will downsize further after the Olympic Games.

The Department launched a voluntary redundancy scheme in September 2010 and 68 permanent employees have left between March 2011 and December 2011. In April 2011, 58 employees transferred from BIS to DCMS under the machinery of government changes.

### Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [88011]

**John Penrose:** This Department has not spent on recruitment agencies between September and November 2011.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [88009]

**John Penrose:** The following table shows the total amount of redundancy payments made to civil servants in this Department in each month between September and November 2011

| *2011* | *Redundancy (£)* |
|---|---|
| September | 202,284.63 |
| October | 75,665.53 |
| November | 225,954 |
| Total | 503,904.16 |

### Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many temporary staff have been recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [88010]

**John Penrose:** Between September and November 2011, five temporary staff were recruited to this Department.

### Diamond Jubilee 2012: Local Government Expenditure

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to offer financial support to *(a)* district councils and *(b)* town and parish councils to cover additional logistical costs incurred by them as a result of the diamond jubilee celebrations. [88547]

**Hugh Robertson:** It is expected that diamond jubilee celebrations will reflect the current economic climate and be funded within existing budgets wherever possible. Local communities can and will mark the diamond jubilee as they wish in any number of different ways, many of which will involve no additional costs for district councils, or town and parish councils. The Department for Communities and Local Government has asked local authorities to be flexible and supportive wherever possible of local celebrations.

### Diamond Jubilee 2012: Medals

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of the Queen's diamond jubilee medal; and what the cost to the public purse will be. [88319]

**Hugh Robertson:** We expect that between 400,000 and 450,000 medals will be produced. Production will be based on a unit cost of around £16 per medal, and we therefore estimate that the total cost to Government could be in the region of £7 million to £8 million.

### Digital Technology

**Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards the installation of a digital hub in every community by 2015. [88715]

**Mr Vaizey:** The local broadband plans being developed by local authorities will contain coverage details for stimulating private investment in broadband connectivity and plans to deliver a digital hub in their communities. There are currently eight in procurement and over 30 more in preparation.

### Infrastructure

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much of the sum allocated by his Department for e-infrastructure has been allocated to each region. [88098]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government are investing £530 million in the UK's broadband network:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7502.aspx

The allocations of funding were published in the summer of 2011, the details can be found on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website, or by using the following links:

*England and Scotland*

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/8389.aspx

and

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/BDUK-Funding-Allocation-16-08-11.pdf

*Northern Ireland*

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/8385.aspx

*Wales*

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/8289.aspx

### Local Broadcasting

**Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to support local and community media. [86761]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government's response to the consultations on the Framework for Local TV consultation and Pioneer Locations was published on 13 December 2011. This includes details of the first locations that Ofcom expects to invite applications for local TV licences and confirms the legislative proposals. The Government expect this will grow the local media market and offer new opportunities for existing businesses and new entrants.

### Mobile Phones: Fees and Charges

**Mrs Glindon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will encourage mobile telephone operators to review their charges for *(a)* 0800, *(b)* directory enquiries and *(c)* other non-geographic calls. [87838]

**Mr Vaizey:** This is an operational matter for Ofcom, the independent regulator.

Ofcom is currently engaged in a review of non-geographic calls, which includes 0800 and directory inquiries and is of the view that regulatory change is needed as the existing market structure does not encourage transparency or competition. This has included detailed discussion with industry to gather support for the changes, minimize implementation costs and risks and identify the full consequence of change.

In February 2012, Ofcom expects to consult on detailed proposals intended to overhaul the regulation of non-geographic calls. The mobile industry will be directly engaged in the consultation process. Ofcom's proposals include the recommendation that 080 should be free from all phones (fixed and mobile); and that there should be clear pricing rules for revenue sharing ranges, including 118, which will allow price comparison between 118 providers and restrict the mobile companies' ability to exploit consumer confusion.

### Mobile Phones: Health Hazards

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the additional number of mobile telephone masts required to deliver national mobile coverage over existing spectrum in the 800 MHz band; [87834]

(2) whether he proposes that open access obligations will be applied to service providers that benefit from public investment in mobile telephone masts. [87835]

**Mr Vaizey:** The aim of the Mobile Infrastructure Project is to improve 2G mobile coverage and quality for the 5% to 10% of consumers in areas of the UK where existing coverage is poor or non-existent, with the goal of extending coverage to 99% of the UK population. We are working with Ofcom and. other stakeholders to determine how best to fill the gaps in current coverage, whether through construction of masts or other appropriate infrastructure.

The coverage of mobile services at 800 MHz is a matter for Ofcom, who in March consulted on a range of matters regarding the auction of 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz spectrum, including coverage obligations. We understand that Ofcom are expecting to consult again on revised proposals shortly

It is anticipated that there will be open access to this infrastructure for all mobile network operators. The conditions applying to the use of the infrastructure are yet to be determined through discussion with the operators, but they will be designed to ensure delivery of an effective and sustainable network.

### Museums and Galleries

**Steve Rotheram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* museums, *(b)* art galleries and *(c)* theatres have been built in Liverpool since 1997. [87039]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* This Department does not hold information on the total number of new museums, art galleries and theatres to be built in Liverpool since 1997.

National Museums Liverpool, one of the DCMS national museums, has built one new museum, the Museum of Liverpool. This was the largest new museum in over 100 years and opened in Liverpool in July 2011. It also opened the International Slavery museum in 2007 which was developed from an existing building.

Arts Council England has supported 40 capital projects in the Liverpool local authority area by eight organisations since 1997. These are: Empire Theatre, Foundation for Art and Creative Technology, Great Georges Community Cultural Project Ltd, Liverpool and Merseyside Theatres Trust, Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, The Bluecoat, Unity Theatre Company and Valley Community Theatre. Additionally, in October this year the Everyman Theatre received an Arts Council England lottery grant towards its £35 million upgrade.

### Japan Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87610]

**John Penrose:** Ministers and special advisers in this Department have not received any hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with Transport for London and the Mayor publishing in advance dates around the London 2012 Olympic Games when routine maintenance work is planned on London Underground. [87815]

**Mrs Villiers:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Transport.

Transport for London (TfL) publish all planned engineering work in advance. Details about tube line and station closures over the next six months are available on their website. London Underground is planning ahead to seek to minimise the work carried out during the games period. This means that no planned closures are to take place on the tube network between 17 July and 14 September 2012.

### Olympic Games 2012: Local Government Expenditure

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to offer financial support to *(a)* district councils and *(b)* town and parish councils which are on the route of the Olympic Torch. [88548]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Department has no plans to offer financial support to district councils or town, and parish councils on the route of the Olympic Torch relay. Each community on route or host authority for an evening celebration has entered into an agreement with the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) to deliver the services required to support the relay and entered into such agreements at their own discretion, accepting the responsibilities entailed. The Department will continue to engage with local authorities, sharing best practice to support them as they prepare for the relay.

### Olympic Games 2012: Hexham

**Guy Opperman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will visit Hexham constituency to discuss preparations for the London 2012's Olympics and the local community's involvement in a mini East Tynedale Olympics. [87885]

**Hugh Robertson:** Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, nor I have specific plans to visit Hexham constituency to discuss preparations for the London 2012 Olympics. However, the Secretary of State will be visiting the north-east in January as part of his regional tourism tour, and preparations for the School Games.

The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 Games.

### Olympic Games 2012: National Lottery

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Harrow West of 15 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 832W, on the Olympic Games 2012: National Lottery, whether he has plans to ensure that countries and regions of the UK which have received fewer legacy benefits from the hosting of the London 2012 Olympics will receive preferential treatment from future Lottery funding. [88636]

**John Penrose:** The distributing bodies for national lottery grants—rightly—make their funding decisions independently of Government, and against their published criteria for particular programmes. This process will not change after the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. Increased lottery ticket income means that considerably more lottery funding should be available for good causes throughout the United Kingdom in future.

### Olympic Games 2012: North East

**Guy Opperman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that the north- east plays an active role in the London 2012 Olympics ceremonies. [87884]

**Hugh Robertson:** The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is responsible for staging a variety of formal ceremonies as part of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This includes the opening and closing ceremonies, athlete welcome ceremonies, torch handover and arrival ceremony; torch relay evening celebrations and victory ceremonies.

There is a wide range of opportunities for the north-east and the whole of the UK to be involved. Business contracts to deliver goods and services for the ceremonies are being won by firms from across the UK via Competefor. Volunteers from across the UK will work and perform at all these ceremonies. There will be four Olympic Torch relay evening celebrations held at Alnwick, Newcastle, Durham and Middlesbrough as the Olympic flame travels across the north-east from 15 to 20 June.

The London 2012 Live Site network (including in Middlesbrough) will broadcast a number of the ceremonies. Athletes will take centre stage in the ceremonies, including those from the north-east in Team GB and ParalympicsGB.

### Olympic Games 2012: Plastic Bags

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 832W, on the Olympic Games 2012: plastic bags, whether the London 2012 Sustainable Sourcing Code provides that LOCOG's sponsors and suppliers should not supply single-use or short-life plastic bags. [88515]

**Hugh Robertson:** The latest edition of LOCOG's Sustainable Sourcing Code is online at

http://www.london2012.com/documents/locog-publications/sustainable-sourcing-code.pdf

This makes clear that, where practicable, all products and packaging at the games (whether from LOCOG, sponsors or suppliers) will be able to be reused, recycled or recovered. It links to specific Packaging Guidelines which make clear that carrier bags should only be produced if they are intended to be re-useable or made out of materials which can be widely recycled.

### Radio Frequencies

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to liberating femtocells on the 190 MHz spectrum in areas where there is a lack of competition for use in a similar way to WiFi on the ISM spectrum. [85509]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

> In March of this year Ofcom consulted on proposals for the award of rights to use the 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz spectrum bands. One option on which Ofcom consulted was the reservation of part of the 2.6 GHz band for shared low-power use, to promote competition and innovation. Ofcom received a number of responses from stakeholders on this proposal, some of which suggested that Ofcom's objectives would be better met if part of this band were reserved for this type of use on a licence exempt basis, similar to WiFi. Ofcom will shortly be publishing a further consultation on these issues. This will provide stakeholders with a further opportunity to provide views and evidence as to the benefits and costs of such an approach. Ofcom will take all such views and evidence into account before deciding whether or not to implement such an approach.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many channels of radio spectrum are available for use by wireless microphone operators; and if he will make a statement. [88640]

**Mr Vaizey:** It is not possible to give a single figure for the number of available channels because availability of radio spectrum for wireless microphone use varies by geographic location. JFMG, which manages spectrum in this area on behalf of Ofcom, can advise on availability of frequencies at any particular site. As a general point, Ofcom confirms that in its view there continues to be sufficient spectrum to meet historic peak demand in this sector.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent progress has been made on ensuring that the 800MHz band is clear of existing users by October 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88641]

**Mr Vaizey:** Ofcom's most recent update on 7 October 2011, confirmed that it continued to expect the 800MHz band to be available from early 2013 (although not nationwide until later in 2013). We understand work is on track to achieve this.

In particular, digital switchover of television broadcasting is progressing to plan and—in relation to channels 61 and 62 which are the more recent additions to the spectrum to be cleared—this work has been completed as part of planned switchover in Yorkshire, Central and STV Central regions. In 2012, 800-MHz clearance will take place as part of planned switchover in London, Meridian (partial), Tyne Tees and Northern Ireland. We understand remaining regions are on track to be cleared of channel 61 and 62's use by the end of 2013.

### Sign Language

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the proposal to designate British Sign Language as an indigenous minority language in the UK. [87585]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has made no assessment of whether British Sign Language should be designated as an indigenous minority language in the UK.

### Sikhs

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will have discussions with the Sikh Council UK and Sikh Federation (UK) on policy matters relating to the Sikh community. [87196]

**John Penrose:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has regular discussions with a significant number of bodies on a wide range of subjects. It would be helpful if the hon. Gentleman could write with details of the topics which he wishes to discuss so we can consider how best to address them.

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to ensure practising Sikhs are able to wear articles of faith such as the Kirpan when visiting UK tourist attractions. [87197]

**John Penrose:** VisitEngland, the national tourist board, is not aware of any instances where articles of faith such as the Kirpan have not been permitted to be worn at a UK tourist attraction. If the hon. Gentleman has evidence of occasions when this has occurred I would encourage him to send details either to me or to VisitEngland, together with information on what steps (if any) were taken to raise the issue with the attraction owners at the time.

### Telecommunications

**Mrs Glindon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with Ofcom the *(a)* progress of, *(b)* reasons for the time taken for and *(c)* timescale for implementation of its review of non-geographic call services. [87837]

**Mr Vaizey:** Ofcom started their review of non-geographic call services in March 2010 and sought comments from stakeholders. This was followed by a strategic consultation in December 2010 in which broad options for wholesale change of the market were canvassed. The options in part relied on expected changes to the Communications Act (from the transposition of changes to the EC Telecommunications Framework) which were made at the end of May 2011.

Now that the changes have been made to the Communications Act 2003, Ofcom expects to consult, in February 2012, on detailed proposals to overhaul the relevant regulation. This should conclude in September 2012, when Ofcom will set out the transition timetable, which could extend to 2013-14. The consultation process needs to be thorough; the market is worth £1.5 billion per annum and changes will impact on almost every organisation in the UK and consumers. Any change made will lead to a redistribution of costs and charges, and in some cases will be beneficial to consumers. There are risks of unintended consequences such as making services uneconomical, which need to be assessed and solutions identified. Doing this effectively takes time and I am satisfied with Ofcom's timetable in this regard. However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport will discuss with them to ensure that their current timings can be met.

**Mrs Glindon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the telecoms appeals framework in enabling Ofcom to make timely regulatory interventions in accordance with its statutory duties. [87840]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department has held two consultations on the telecoms appeal framework. The first in autumn 2010, as part of a consultation on implementing changes to the electronic communications framework, and the second in August 2011 (closed October 2011). The Department is now considering what action to take as a result of the responses received.

**Mrs Glindon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on consumers of delays to Ofcom regulation affected by the telecoms appeals framework. [87841]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department is concerned about the impact of lengthy and costly appeals against Ofcom on its ability to regulate for the benefit of consumers. For that reason, we have held two consultations on the telecoms appeal framework. The first in autumn 2010, as part of a consultation on implementing changes to the electronic communications framework, and the second in August 2011 (closed October 2011). The Department is currently considering what action to take as a result of responses received.

### Telephone Services: Fees and Charges

**Mrs Glindon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the financial effects on consumers of non-geographic call prices from *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* landlines. [87839]

**Mr Vaizey:** This is an operational matter for Ofcom, the independent regulator.

Ofcom's current review of these services has identified problems with the transparency of call charges, which has led to clear evidence of market failure with the result that the charges faced by consumers probably do not reflect the value placed on them and that the providers of services are unable to compete effectively to offer better value and innovation to potential customers. Ofcom's analysis suggests that the financial impact of the charges is likely to be unevenly distributed. Higher prices of some mobile services are likely to lead to lower prices for others in a competitive market. However, for more vulnerable consumers, who more regularly require access to socially important services, particularly if they are in a mobile only household, there is evidence of significant consumer disadvantage. Therefore, Ofcom is reviewing the market for these services and will be setting out its proposals for an overhaul of the regulations in February 2012.

### UK Sport: Disability

**Damian Collins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much UK Sport spent on the development of disabled weightlifting in each of the last five years; and how much it has allocated to supporting existing athletes in the latest period for which figures are available. [88064]

**Hugh Robertson:** The following table provides the investment made by UK Sport to both the Powerlifting National Governing Body and directly to Powerlifting athletes.

£

| *Financial year* | *World Class Programme* | *Direct to Powerlifting athletes* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| April 2011 to November 2011 | 120,112 | 22,224 | 142,336 |
| April 2010 to March 2011 | 219,867 | 40,507 | 260,374 |
| April 2009 to March 2010 | 237,325 | 41,067 | 278,392 |
| April 2008 to March 2009 | 316,245 | 46,073 | 362,318 |

| *Financial year* | *World Class Programme* | *Direct to Powerlifting athletes* | £<br>*Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| April 2007 to March 2008 | 99,138 | 23,316 | 122,454 |
| April 2006 to March 2007 | 49,744 | 15,612 | 65,356 |
| Total | 1,042,431 | 188,799 | 1,231,230 |

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Register

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what information the Speaker's Committee holds on the effectiveness of electoral registration campaigns operated by the Electoral Commission. [88093]

**Mr Streeter:** The Speaker's Committee publishes annually the reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Electoral Commission.

The most recent such report (the Committee's First Report 2011) included an assessment of the Electoral Commission's expenditure on public awareness campaigns, to inform people how to register to vote, to encourage them to do so and to make sure people know how to cast their vote. The report found that the Commission is doing well in fulfilling its legislative responsibilities and evaluating its performance in promoting public awareness. An earlier report on the Commission's work on public awareness was published as the Committee's First Report 2006.

Both reports are available via the Committee's webpage at:

www.parliament.uk/scec

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Guidance: Email

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Prime Minister what guidance his Department provides to Ministers, special advisers and officials on the use of personal email accounts to conduct official business. [88535]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Jack Dromey) on 17 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 603W.

### Festivals and Special Occasions

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish the guest list of his recent Eid event. [87860]

**The Prime Minister:** Information on official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

### Ministerial Committees

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 909-10W, which Members of the Cabinet represented the UK Government at the most recent Joint Ministerial Committee sub-committee meeting on Europe. [88514]

**The Prime Minister:** It is longstanding practice under successive Administrations not to disclose information relating to ministerial meetings, including the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees, as to do so would put at risk the public interest in the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Legislation

**Mr David Hamilton:** To ask the Leader of the House whether he plans to publish a Draft Legislative Statement for the next Session of Parliament. [87917]

**Sir George Young:** I have no plans to publish a draft legislative statement for the next Session. Work is under way to plan a full legislative programme for the second Session, which will be announced in the Queen's Speech in the spring.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to deliver affordable housing within mixed sustainable communities. [87669]

**Grant Shapps:** The draft National Planning Policy Framework says local planning authorities should plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community; identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand; and where they have identified affordable housing is required, set policies for meeting this need on site, unless off-site provision or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value can be robustly justified and the agreed approach contributes to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. The consultation on the draft framework has closed and we are now considering all the responses.

Overall, the Government are investing £4.5 billion to provide up to 170,000 new affordable homes by 2015.

## Cleveland Fire Brigade

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* funding and *(b)* advice his Department has provided to Cleveland Fire Brigade on establishing a separate, for-profit community interest company; and what the cost to the public purse was of any such advice. [87798]

**Robert Neill:** Cleveland Fire Brigade have discussed their proposals for the establishment of a separate, for-profit community interest company, informally with the Department. The Department has not offered any funding or formal advice on this issue.

## Compulsory Purchase

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many compulsory purchase orders have been issued in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [88026]

**Robert Neill:** The following table sets out during each of the last five years, the number of compulsory purchase orders which have either been confirmed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, or returned to the local authority for their own confirmation.

| *Local authorities* | *1 April 2011 to 23 December 2011* | *1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011* | *1 April 2009 to March 2010* | *1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009* | *1 April 2007 to March 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arun | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Ashfield | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Babergh | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Barking and Dagenham | — | 1 | — | — | 4 |
| Barnet | — | 4 | — | — | 1 |
| Barnsley UA | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Barrow-in-Furness | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Basildon | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Bedford borough council | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Birmingham UA | 2 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 4 |
| Blackburn with Darwen borough council UA | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Blackpool UA | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Bracknell Forest UA | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Brent | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Brentwood | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Brighton and Hove UA | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Bristol (City and County of) UA | — | 4 | 3 | 2 | — |
| Broadland | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bromley | — | — | 7 | — | 1 |
| Burnley | — | 1 | 7 | 7 | 3 |
| Bury UA | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Calderdale UA | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Cambridge | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Cannock Chase | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Canterbury | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Carrick | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Charnwood | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| Cherwell | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Cheshire West and Chester council | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| City of Bradford Metropolitan District council UA | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 |
| City of Westminster | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Congleton | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Corby | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cornwall CC | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Coventry UA | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Croydon | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Derby City UA | — | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Derbyshire CC | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Devon CC | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Doncaster UA | — | — | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Ealing | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Easington | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| East Sussex CC | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Enfield | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4 | — |
| Epping Forest | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Fenland | — | — | — | — | 1 |

| *Local authorities* | *1 April 2011 to 23 December 2011* | *1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011* | *1 April 2009 to March 2010* | *1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009* | *1 April 2007 to March 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gloucestershire CC | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Gosport | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Great Yarmouth | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| Greater Manchester CC | — | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| Greenwich | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Hackney | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Halton UA | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Haringey | — | — | 4 | — | — |
| Harrow | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Hartlepool UA | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Hastings | 5 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Havering | 4 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Herefordshire County District council UA | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Hounslow | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Hyndburn | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Ipswich | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Isle of Wight UA | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Islington | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Kent CC | — | — | 3 | — | — |
| King's Lynn and West Norfolk | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Kingston upon Hull (City and County of) UA | — | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Kirklees UA | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Lambeth | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Lancashire CC | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Leeds UA | — | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| Leicester City UA | 1 | 3 | — | — | 1 |
| Lewisham | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | — |
| Lichfield | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Liverpool UA | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Luton UA | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Maidstone | — | 3 | — | — | 1 |
| Manchester UA | 1 | — | — | 5 | 7 |
| Mansfield | — | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Merton | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Mid Devon | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Middlesbrough UA | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Mid Suffolk | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Newcastle upon Tyne UA | — | 5 | — | — | 3 |
| Newham | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 11 |
| North East Derbyshire | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| North East Lincolnshire UA | — | 1 | 5 | — | — |
| North Hertfordshire | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Northumberland | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Norwich | 1 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Nottingham (City of) UA | — | — | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Oldham UA | — | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Oxford | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Peak National Park | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Pendle | — | 2 | — | 4 | 1 |
| Plymouth UA | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Portsmouth UA | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Purbeck | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Reading UA | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Ribble Valley | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Rochdale UA | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Rochford | — | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| Rossendale | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Rotherham UA | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Rugby | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Runnymede | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |

| *Local authorities* | *1 April 2011 to 23 December 2011* | *1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011* | *1 April 2009 to March 2010* | *1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009* | *1 April 2007 to March 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rushmoor | — | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| Salford UA | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Sandwell UA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Sedgefield | — | 1 | — | 2 | — |
| Sefton UA | 2 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Sheffield UA | — | — | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Slough UA | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Solihull UA | — | — | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| South Holland | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| South Norfolk | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| South Northamptonshire | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Southampton UA | — | 2 | — | 2 | 1 |
| Southwark | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| St Edmundsbury | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| St Helens UA | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Stafford | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Stockport UA | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | — | 1 | 4 | — | 1 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Stroud | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Sunderland UA | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Sutton | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Tameside UA | — | 1 | — | 3 | 4 |
| Taunton Deane | 2 | — | — | 2 | — |
| Telford and the Wrekin District council UA | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Thanet | 1 | 3 | — | 1 | — |
| Thurrock UA | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Tower Hamlets | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Trafford UA | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Tunbridge Wells | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Uttlesford | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Wakefield UA | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Waltham Forest | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Wandsworth | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Watford | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Waveney | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Wellingborough | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Welwyn Hatfield | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| West Berkshire District council UA | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Wigan UA | — | 1 | — | 6 | 3 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead UA | — | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Wirral UA | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Wolverhampton UA | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Worcester | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Wychavon | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Wyre Forest | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |

## Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88606]

**Robert Neill:** Departments will work closely with Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and with Co-operatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

The Mutuals Taskforce has recently indicated it will play a co-ordinating role for Departments to support the International Year of Co-operatives, with Co-operatives UK leading the Taskforce's work in this area.

## Council Tax: Non-Payment

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the number of people made bankrupt by local authorities for non-payment of council tax in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [88525]

**Robert Neill:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88370]

**Robert Neill:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has not used any debt recovery companies since May 2010.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013; [88741]

(2) how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88742]

**Robert Neill:** Information about the appointment of sponsored apprenticeships is not recorded centrally.

### Food Procurement

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [86995]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the hon. Member to these entries on my Department's freedom of information disclosure log which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2011/jul2011/expenditureoncatering/

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2011/november2011/expenditureoncatering/

They give a breakdown on food expenditure, defined as hospitality, on a monthly basis, from April 2010 until September 2011 (18 months). These replies also contain a link to the response to a parliamentary question giving hospitality expenditure for 2009-10.

### Services: Social Value

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85652]

**Robert Neill:** The Best Value guidance for local authorities, which includes social value, can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1976926.pdf

In his foreword, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Pickles), said

> "I am not asking councils to do anything that I wouldn't ask of my Department or any other. That is why, reaffirming our commitments under the Compact, all central government departments are also signing up to the same fair standards set out in the guidance."

### Departmental Written Questions

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by his Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79586]

**Robert Neill:** The information requested, based on the month in which parliamentary questions were tabled, is as follows:

|  |  |  | *Answered within:* |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Number of named day questions* | *Answered on time* | *1 to 5 days*[1] | *6 to 10 days*[1] | *11 to 20 days*[1] | *21 to 30 days*[1] | *Over 30 days*[1] |
| May 2010 | 17 | 16 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| June 2010 | 91 | 77 | 12 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| July 2010 | 122 | 109 | 11 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| September 2010 | 33 | 27 | 5 | — | 1 | — | — |
| October 2010 | 86 | 76 | 8 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| November 2010 | 70 | 62 | 7 | 1 | — | — | — |
| December 2010 | 61 | 50 | 8 | — | 2 | — | 1 |
| January 2011 | 43 | 35 | 6 | 2 | — | — | — |
| February 2011 | 66 | 56 | 8 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| March 2011 | 71 | 50 | 18 | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| April 2011 | 24 | 18 | 4 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| May 2011 | 48 | 38 | 6 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| June 2011 | 71 | 56 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| July 2011 | 55 | 40 | 14 | 1 | — | — | — |
| August 2011 | 7 | 7 | — | — | — | — | — |
| September 2011 | 24 | 14 | 7 | 3 | — | — | — |
| October 2011 | 60 | 40 | 17 | 3 | — | — | — |

[1] Sitting days including non-sitting Fridays.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 Parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 Session to date. [85926]

**Robert Neill:** 78 of the 3,005 ordinary written questions (around 2.5% of the total) tabled to the Department between the 2010 general election and 31 October 2011 were not answered within 10 sitting days (including non-sitting Fridays) of the due date for answer. It would involve disproportionate cost to provide the further breakdown requested.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

### Empty Property

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with local authorities regarding the use of empty public buildings prior to decisions to build new property being made. [76559]

**Robert Neill:** We have had no discussions with local authorities about the use of empty public buildings prior to decisions to build new property being made.

In July 2011, we published a draft new National Planning Policy Framework. This states that planning policies and decisions should enable the reuse of existing resources such as through the conversion of existing buildings. The 12-week consultation period on the draft framework closed on 17 October. We will now carefully consider all of the submissions that have been made and then publish the revised text.

Additionally we have been working with 11 pathfinders across the country to ensure better use of public sector assets.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/capitalassets/

I also refer the hon. Member to my Department's press notice of 5 October 2011, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, which outlines the Government's plans to release disused public sector land and buildings to help build new homes, and outlines the new Community Right to Reclaim Land to help get disused public land back into use.

### Government Procurement Card

**Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 647W, on the Government Procurement Card, which of the listed transactions for withdrawing cash were made by cards held by a member of a Ministerial private office; and what the name of each such Minister was. [81662]

**Robert Neill:** The following cash withdrawals were made by the Department's private offices from April 2006 to March 2010:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 24 April 2006 | 235.10 |
| 8 September 2006[1] | 351.42 |
| 8 September 2006[1] | -351.42 |
| 8 September 2006 | 402.64 |
| 4 November 2008 | 190.68 |
| 9 December 2008 | 49.64 |

[1] The transaction for £351.42 on 8 September 2006 was cancelled and immediately reimbursed.

Records of private office transactions are not held in a form which allows them to be readily ascribed to individual Ministers' offices.

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Yarmouth, of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 782W, on the Government Procurement Card, which of the transactions under the heading of *(a)* restaurants and bars and *(b)* leisure activities in the Government Procurement Card transaction data for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10, were made using card held by the private office of (A) each Minister in his Department and (B) the permanent secretary; and what the name is of the associated Minister or permanent secretary in each case. [81675]

**Robert Neill:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Burton (Andrew Griffiths) on 20 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1102-1106W.

The following transactions were made under the heading of 'restaurants and bars' and 'leisure activities' using a card held by the permanent secretary in 2008-09:

| *Cardholder* | *Transaction date* | *Merchant* | *Town* | *Spend category* | *Transaction amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sir Peter Housden, former permanent secretary | 14 October 2008 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 19.13 |
| | 27 November 2008 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 29.25 |
| | 9 December 2008 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 29.25 |
| | 9 January 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 23.63 |

| *Cardholder* | *Transaction date* | *Merchant* | *Town* | *Spend category* | *Transaction amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 15 January 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 67.50 |
| | 6 February 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 30.38 |
| | 6 February 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 52.31 |
| | 10 February 2009 | Refreshment Dpt Micros | London Sw1p | Restaurants and Bars | 49.60 |
| | 10 February 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 24.19 |
| | 3 March 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 23.06 |
| | 6 March 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 20.25 |
| | 10 March 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 18.00 |
| | 24 March 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 18.56 |

The following transactions were made under the heading of 'restaurants and bars' and 'leisure activities' using a card held by the permanent secretary's private office in 2008-09:

| *Cardholder* | *Transaction date* | *Merchant* | *Town* | *Spend category* | *Transaction amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Private office | 24 October 2008 | Brasserie Forty 4 | Leeds | Restaurants and Bars | 200.00 |
| Private office | 13 March 2009 | The Portland Spa Ltd | Portland | Leisure Activities | 155.32 |

The following transactions were made under the heading of 'restaurants and bars' and 'leisure activities' using a card held by the permanent secretary in 2009-10:

| *Cardholder* | *Transaction date* | *Merchant* | *Town* | *Spend category* | *Transaction amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sir Peter Housden, former private secretary | 28 April 2009 | Shepherd's | London, Sw1p | Restaurants and Bars | 78.19 |
| | 28 April 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 33.19 |
| | 1 December 2009 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 24.19 |
| | 6 January 2010 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 63.00 |
| | 26 March 2010 | The Cinnamon Club | London | Restaurants and Bars | 24.19 |

The following transactions were made under the heading of 'restaurants and bars' and 'leisure activities' using a card held by the permanent secretary's private office in 2009-10:

| *Cardholder* | *Transaction date* | *Merchant* | *Town* | *Spend category* | *Transaction amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Private office | 22 June 2009 | Leiths At The Cent | London Sw1p | Restaurants and Bars | 90.16 |

The Government Procurement Card spend categories depend on how the vendor classifies their business. The single transaction listed under 'leisure activities' relates to hotel accommodation.

Records are not held in the names of individual Ministers or permanent secretaries, other than the specific transactions listed above in the name of the then permanent secretary. It would involve disproportionate cost to provide the information requested in this form.

My Department is committed to greater transparency over the use of the Government Procurement Card than under the last Administration, and has strengthened the checks and balances to ensure protection of taxpayers money.

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 13W, on the Government Procurement Card, which Ministers received hospitality funded from the public purse in each case. [82149]

**Robert Neill:** For the events held at the Wolseley on 2 December 2008 and 5 June 2009, and the Boisdale on

3 April 2008, I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 62W.

The event held at the SHH Yong An Xianqiangfang in Shanghai on 4 November 2008 was attended by the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright). I am informed that it was a roundtable organised by the British consulate in Shanghai, as part of the World Urban Forum.

The visit of the hon. Member for Hartlepool to China is recorded on the Cabinet Office website for overseas visits made by all Ministers in 2008-09, available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

and

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

No Ministers attended the other events.

### High Street Review: Parking

**Oliver Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Portas Review, if he will ask local authorities to review their parking strategies. [87869]

**Grant Shapps:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Bob Neill), to the hon. Member for Westminster North (Ms Buck), of 7 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 342-43W.

The Government expect to respond to the Portas Review in the spring.

### Housing Benefit: Greater London

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department is undertaking on the effects of changes in housing benefit rules in London; and how many people he estimates have *(a)* moved and *(b)* been made homeless as a result of those changes. [88551]

**Grant Shapps:** The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has commissioned an independent consortium of academics and research organisations to evaluate the effects of the recent local housing allowance changes. The Department for Communities and Local Government, along with the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government, is working in close partnership with DWP on this and is contributing to the costs of the research.

### Housing: Berkshire

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of the New Homes Bonus in *(a)* Berkshire, *(b)* Reading and *(c)* Reading West constituency. [87238]

**Grant Shapps:** On 1 December we announced provisional New Homes Bonus allocations for 2012-13. The Bonus is based on the number of additional homes and those brought back into use, with a premium for affordable homes. Reading Unitary Authority and West Berkshire Unitary Authority will receive £1,242,883 and £921,033 respectively.

New Homes Bonus ensures that the benefits of growth are reaped by the communities where housing stock has increased. Local authorities and their communities are free to spend New Homes Bonus revenues according to local wishes.

### Housing: Greater London

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new dwellings for *(a)* shared ownership, *(b)* owner-occupation, *(c)* council tenancy and *(d)* housing association tenancy he estimates will be completed in each London borough in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13. [88383]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department does not forecast levels of future house building, and delivery will be determined by local housing plans.

London has been allocated 27% of the 80,000 new affordable homes through the new Affordable Homes Programme. In addition to existing commitments, these will be delivered over the years 2011-15.

Details about homes to be delivered and funded through the Affordable Homes Programme by local authority area are not yet available.

### Housing: Sales

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of houses bought in England by people resident outside the UK in the last year for which figures are available. [88512]

**Andrew Stunell:** Other than the figures given to the right hon. Member in response to his question of 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 243-46W, the Department does not hold any data on houses bought in England by people resident outside of the UK.

### Japan Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87608]

**Robert Neill:** Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on departmental websites. Information for 1 July onwards will be published in due course.

### Local Government Association: Finance

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department provides to the Local Government Association; and for what purposes. [86986]

**Robert Neill:** The Local Government Association is provided with improvement support funding of £116.75 million from the revenue support grant top-slice. The funding is used to support improvement which includes themes such as: tackling underperformance; identifying productivity gains; transforming the way services and the work force are organised; supporting councils to create strong local economies; improving councillors' skills; and reviewing and challenging performance.

DCLG has also provided £1 million to enable the Local Government Association to perform its role as selector for Sustainable Communities Act 2007 cases.

The allocations for each year are set out in the following table.

| | | | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Budget* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* | *Total* |
| Revenue Support Grant top-slice | 32.5 | 29.25 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 116.75 |
| Sustainable Communities Act | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 1.0 |

The grant is for use on behalf of the local government sector as a whole, not just Local Government Association members.

### Local Government Ombudsman

**Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to extend the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman to cover *(a)* parish and *(b)* town councils. [87879]

**Robert Neill:** As I informed the House in my response to a question from my hon. Friend the Member for Winchester (Steve Brine) on 20 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 54W, we are open to representations on this matter, in particular in the context of our current consideration of a new and different role for ombudsmen with a focus on consumer choice as proposed in the Open Public Services White Paper.

### Non-Domestic Rates

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to use the income from business rates to provide better support for small businesses and independent retailers. [88029]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government will respond to the Portas review in the spring. That notwithstanding, I would note that the Government's proposals to allow the local retention of business rates from April 2013 will provide further incentives for local authorities to work with local businesses to help create a positive climate to enable local growth. The Government have also doubled small business rate relief for two and half years, which will include the whole of the 2012-13 financial year.

Business rates in Wales are a devolved matter.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the use made by local authorities of their discretionary powers to give rate concessions to new local businesses. [88030]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government will respond to the Portas review in the spring. That notwithstanding, I would note that the power to provide discounts is not yet available to local authorities. It will be from 1 April 2012. From that point authorities will be able to grant business rates discounts entirely as they see fit within the limits of the primary legislation and European rules on state aid.

Business rates in Wales are a devolved matter.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Retail Trade

**Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of business rates revenue was paid by companies in the retail sector in each of the last five years. [87934]

**Robert Neill:** This information is not held centrally.

### Parking: Fees and Charges

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will give consideration to publishing a parking league table giving comparative information on the parking charges imposed by local authorities. [88028]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government expect to respond to the Portas review in the spring.

### Parking: Urban Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of the imposition of car parking charges in town centre locations on the commercial viability of high streets. [88096]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 7 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 342-43W, which outlines my Department's stance on the issue of car parking charges and supporting local high streets.

The Government will also be responding in spring 2012 to the Mary Portas review, which made a number of policy recommendations on this topic.

### Planning Permission

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will list the local planning authorities that have made submissions to his Department's consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework. [87672]

**Greg Clark:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1029W.

### Planning Permission: Rural Areas

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of whether there should be a separate definition of the sustainability of development in rural areas in the National Planning Policy Framework. [87671]

**Greg Clark:** Policies in the draft National Planning Policy Framework were developed taking into account both rural and urban areas. Before finalising the document we will also take into account the issues raised as a result of the consultation exercise.

### Planning: Property

**Joan Ruddock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he proposes that the formal consultation on the review of the Use Classes Order will begin. [88530]

**Robert Neill:** We are considering the thoughts and ideas received in response to our Issues Paper on how change of use should be handled in the planning system. Its purpose was to stimulate debate and was part of a wider call for evidence on this subject which also included discussions with key partners and other Government Departments. We are now reflecting on the issues on which we may wish to consult in the future.

### Planning: Urban Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that the revised National Planning Policy Framework will contain a presumption in favour of town centre development. [88027]

**Greg Clark:** We remain committed to the town centre first approach set out in current policy, which we have included in the draft National Planning Policy Framework. Local authorities should recognise town centres as the heart of their communities and the draft Framework makes clear that they should pursue policies to support their viability and vitality. The consultation on the draft Framework has closed now and we are considering all the responses.

### Renewable Energy

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact upon neighbourhood plans of the Government's commitment to ensure that renewable sources will generate 15 per cent. of the UK's energy by 2020. [87670]

**Greg Clark:** The Localism Act 2011 gives communities new powers to plan for the future of their areas through neighbourhood planning. These are powerful new opportunities for communities to shape the development of their local areas.

It is for communities to decide whether they wish to use neighbourhood development plans or orders to deliver energy from renewable sources, provided the plans or orders meet the basic conditions set out in the Localism Act.

Our proposals strike the right balance by ensuring that neighbourhood planning proposals are in general conformity with strategic planning policies, while giving communities the flexibility to determine those issues that are rightly dealt with at community level.

### Retail Trade: Empty Property

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on tackling empty shops; and if he will consider introducing empty shop management orders; [88031]

(2) what consideration he has given to imposing a duty on local authorities to produce a public register of high street landlords; [88032]

(3) what his policy is on the recommendation by the Portas review that empty shop management orders be introduced; [88033]

(4) what steps his Department has taken to discourage landlords from leaving shopping units vacant; [88034]

(5) what assessment he has made of the contribution of a clean urban environment to the commercial viability of high streets. [88101]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government commissioned Mary Portas to do an independent review of the future of the high street. She has identified many issues for Government, business and local authorities to consider. These include empty shop management orders, the introduction of a public register of high street landlords, disincentives to prevent landlords from leaving shop units vacant, and the contribution a clean urban environment can make to the commercial viability of high streets.

The Government will consider these and other recommendations of the review carefully and respond in detail in spring 2012.

### Right-to-Buy Scheme

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to introduce an exception from the right-to-buy scheme in cases where it is demonstrable that *(a)* sales would create a negative net present value in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and *(b)* the units are required to meet housing need within the locality. [87706]

**Grant Shapps:** We have announced our intention to reinvigorate the right-to-buy scheme by significantly increasing discounts.

In our consultation paper "Reinvigorating Right to Buy and one for one replacement" published on 22 December 2011, we propose that the council may deduct, from its right-to-buy receipts, an amount sufficient to cover the housing debt supportable from the income on additional right-to-buy sales. The aim is that the Housing Revenue Account receives a capital receipt equivalent to the amount of debt that the property could support under the self-financing methodology. This is to ensure the continued viability of the council's landlord business by compensating for the lost value of the property.

Our proposals for calculating the amount of housing debt that should be cleared are set out in Annex C of the consultation paper.

Every additional home sold under right-to-buy will be replaced with a new home for affordable rent.

We have no plans to extend the range of exemptions from the right to buy.

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 486W, on right-to-buy scheme, from which budget he proposes funding will be made available to meet the difference between the income raised from the 50 per cent. discounted sale of social housing and the cost of the land and construction of a one for one replacement dwelling. [87856]

**Grant Shapps:** The receipts only have to meet part of the cost of a replacement property. Social landlords generally meet the costs of new homes from borrowing against the future rental income from letting the home, a contribution from their own resources, including land, and grant funding from the Government. In the Right to Buy replacement scheme, receipts from sales will substitute for grant funding.

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in Reading were sold under the right to buy scheme in each of the last 20 years. [87313]

**Grant Shapps:** The number of sales of local authority stock under the Right to Buy scheme in each year are given in live table 648 on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/socialhousingsales/livetables/

Housing associations may also sell their stock through Preserved Right to Buy where the tenant is eligible under this scheme. Data on Preserved Right to Buy is collected by the Tenant Services Authority in their Regulatory and Statistical Return but this does not separately identify Preserved Right to Buy sales at local authority level.

### Temporary Accommodation

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the median cost was of providing temporary accommodation to homeless households in each bedroom size unit, in each region, in each of the last five years. [87683]

**Grant Shapps** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* The Department does not collect the requested information.

## TREASURY

### Air Passenger Duty

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much airport passenger tax was collected at each airport in each of the last three years. [88174]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not collect information on air passenger duty (APD) revenues by each airport in the UK. For each destination band under APD, the numbers of chargeable passengers and the revenue declared are published on a monthly basis on HMRCs UK Trade Info website at:

www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins

### Banks: China

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 10 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 524W, on banking system (China), if he will provide an updated assessment of the stability of the banking system in China. [87948]

**Mr Hoban:** HM Treasury continually monitors the stability of financial systems around the world and their effects on the UK economy. The outlook for UK economy was set out in the autumn statement. On 14 November 2011, the IMF published the findings from its first detailed assessment of China's financial sector, as part of its Financial Sector Assessment programme (carried out every five years on systemically important financial systems). It concluded that "China has made remarkable progress in its transition toward a more commercially-orientated and financially-sound system", while highlighting the key short-term risks facing the sector and the build-up of longer-term vulnerabilities. Full details can be found here:

http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=25350.0

As part of the UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), we have significantly increased our technical and policy collaboration with China on financial sector reform issues, as highlighted in paragraphs 4 to 15 of the policy outcomes paper from the 2011 EFD:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/int_ukchina_pop.htm

### Get Britain Building Investment Fund

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what he has made of *(a)* the level of take-up and *(b)* the effectiveness of the Get Britain Building investment fund. [87640]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* The Government published a prospectus for the Get Britain Building fund on 22 December. Expressions of interest are requested by 27 January 2012. Our analysis suggests there are 133,000 stalled sites in England, of which, 90,000 units have not started and are classified as on hold or shelved.

### Business: Loans

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how he plans to monitor whether the cheaper funding received by the banks under the National Loan Guarantee Scheme is passed through to smaller businesses. [87799]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government will put in place rigorous monitoring and audit processes to ensure that banks pass on the benefit of cheaper funding to smaller businesses.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects that businesses will start to receive investment through his Business Finance Partnership. [87800]

**Mr Hoban:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 976W.

The Government intend to commit their first funding through the Business Finance Partnership in spring 2012, but the month in which the first loans will be made to businesses by these funds will depend upon the length of time taken for fund managers to confirm private sector co-investment, and to identify suitable lending opportunities.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects that businesses will start to receive loans supported by his National Loan Guarantee Scheme. [87801]

**Mr Hoban:** The National Loan Guarantee Scheme is expected to be up and running early this year.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* net and *(b)* gross change in bank lending to (i) all businesses and (ii) small and medium-sized enterprises arising from his credit easing policy in each month of 2012. [87802]

**Mr Hoban:** The National Loan Guarantee Scheme will improve the flow of credit to smaller businesses by reducing the cost of borrowing. The Business Finance Partnership is initially expected to make at least £2 billion of finance available for mid-sized businesses.

### Carbon Sequestration: Finance

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the status is of the £1 billion allocated for the carbon capture and storage programme in 2016-17; and if he will make a statement. [87962]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The Government remain committed to making £1 billion available for carbon capture and storage (CCS). The Department of Energy and Climate Change is in the process of designing a competition for a CCS programme; the outcome of this will determine the allocation of that budget.

### Charitable Trusts

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to amend the use of the fit and proper persons test for charity trustees used by HM Revenue and Customs. [88443]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** There are no plans to amend the fit and proper persons test for charity trustees.

### Child Benefit

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish draft legislation to implement his proposed changes for higher rate taxpayer households in receipt of child benefit. [88566]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The legislative timetable for implementation of proposed changes for higher rate taxpayer households in receipt of child benefit will be announced in due course.

### Combined Heat and Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Department for Energy and Climate Change on support for micro combined heat and power through the feed-in tariff. [83666]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of other Ministers and officials from other Government Departments as part of the usual policy making process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet representatives of the heating and hot water industries to discuss micro combined heat and power and the feed-in tariff. [83667]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** Treasury Ministers receive numerous requests to meet with representatives from industry and consider them on a case-by-case basis. The Department of Energy and Climate Change is the Government Department responsible for the Feed-in Tariff programme.

### Company Liquidations

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that HM Revenue and Customs has the flexibility to delay demands for payment to prevent businesses going into liquidation. [88689]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC is committed to adopting a sympathetic approach to businesses that have genuine short term difficulties in paying the tax they owe. HMRC does not take winding up action lightly and if there is a prospect of imminent payment HMRC will work closely with the customer to facilitate payment to the Exchequer. This process is made easier if taxpayers experiencing temporary difficulties in meeting their tax obligations contact HMRC early.

### Debit Cards: Fees and Charges

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the Government's response to the Office of Fair Trading's recommendations on debit card surcharges; and if he will make a statement. [87452]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government announced on 23 December 2011 that they will take action to tackle excessive card surcharges that are opaque, misleading and prevent consumers getting a good deal. The Government will consult on draft legislation in early 2012.

I have written to the director general of the Office of Fair Trading setting out the details. A copy of my letter has been deposited in the Library of the House.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88362]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** Since May 2010 the Treasury has not used the services of any debt recovery companies.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87991]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The Treasury did not incur any spending on compulsory redundancies during the period in question. However, the Treasury is in the process of managing a small number of voluntary exits from the organisation in line with the Civil Service Compensation scheme.

Spending was incurred on voluntary exits amounting to £198,000 during the period comprising £24,000 in September, £101,000 in October and £73,000 in November.

### Risk Assessment

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85712]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** In line with good planning and risk management, UK Financial Investments Ltd and the Office for Budget Responsibility maintain risk registers.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many temporary staff have been recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [87992]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** HM Treasury recruited 13 temporary staff (five fixed term appointments; eight agency staff) between 1 September and 30 November 2011.

### Devolution: Finance

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Barnett consequential funding will be made available to each devolved Administration as a result of the allocation of funding to assist troubled families. [88173]

**Danny Alexander:** This measure is being funded from within existing resources. There are consequently no additional Barnett consequentials.

### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had on the introduction of a fuel duty rebate in rural areas of Wales. [88019]

**Danny Alexander:** Treasury Ministers routinely discuss a range of issues with colleagues and stakeholders. I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Economic Secretary to the Treasury gave to the hon. Member for Skipton and Ripon (Julian Smith) on 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 69W.

### Excise Duties: Tobacco

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to tackle the illicit trade in non-UK duty paid cigarettes. [87751]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The Government are committed to tackling the illicit trade in non-UK duty paid cigarettes and in April 2011 published a comprehensive new strategy for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the UK Border Agency (UKBA): "Tackling Tobacco Smuggling—building on our success". It is available online at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/tackling-tobacco.htm

This is a risk-based, intelligence-led strategy which is applied across the UK, including in Leicestershire and the east midlands. Domestically, HMRC works in collaboration with other enforcement agencies to maximise impact using the full range of powers and sanctions available, and to develop and apply joined-up approaches to localised problems of illicit activity.

### Housing Revenue Accounts: Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the Welsh Government on retaining within Wales the moneys accrued under the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Scheme since May 2011. [88021]

**Danny Alexander:** Treasury and Welsh Government Ministers meet from time to time to discuss matters of common interest including the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Scheme.

### Income Tax

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average personal income tax *(a)* burden and *(b)* rate on the top (i) 1 per cent. and (ii) 10 per cent. of income earners in each year between 1985 and 2010; and if he will make a statement. [86445]

**Mr Gauke:** Estimates of total income tax liabilities, total income assessable for tax and so average rates of tax for the top 1% and 10% of taxpayers by total income in the period 1999-2000 to 2010-11 are provided in the following table.

*Table 1. Income tax liabilities and average tax rate for top 10% and top 1% of taxpayers, 1999-2000 to 2010-11*

| | Top 10% | | | Top 1% | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Taxpayers* | *Income tax (£ billion)* | *Total income (£ billion)* | *Average rate (percentage)* | *Income tax (£ billion)* | *Total income (£ billion)* | *Average rate (percentage)* |
| 1999-2000 | 46.8 | 175.6 | 26.7 | 19.9 | 58.5 | 34.0 |
| 2000-01 | 54.3 | 200.2 | 27.1 | 23.5 | 68.3 | 34.3 |
| 2001-02 | 55.5 | 204.2 | 27.2 | 23.3 | 68.1 | 34.1 |
| 2002-03 | 56.0 | 206.3 | 27,2 | 22.8 | 67.3 | 33.9 |
| 2003-04 | 56.3 | 208.1 | 27.1 | 23.0 | 68.7 | 33.6 |
| 2004-05 | 63.2 | 231.9 | 27.2 | 26.4 | 77.9 | 33.9 |
| 2005-06 | 73.0 | 263.5 | 27.7 | 31.4 | 92.5 | 33.9 |
| 2006-07 | 80.0 | 287.5 | 27.8 | 35.1 | 104.2 | 33.7 |
| 2007-06 | 88.4 | 313.4 | 28.2 | 39.6 | 116.6 | 34.0 |
| 2008-09 | 85.5 | 309.1 | 27.7 | 39.0 | 115.2 | 33.8 |
| 2009-10 | 81.8 | 301.9 | 27.1 | 37.7 | 111.7 | 33.8 |
| 2010-11 | 89.5 | 305.3 | 29.3 | 42.7 | 108.7 | 39.3 |

These estimates are based on successive Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) datasets up to 2007-08. Estimates for 2008-09 onwards are based on the 2007-08 SPI projected using OBR's Budget 2011 economic and fiscal assumptions.

These estimates are consistent with statistics published in Table 2.4 shares of total income tax liability:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm#liabilities

Published estimates of shares of total income tax liabilities for the top 1% and 10% of taxpayers by total income in the period 1990-91 to 2010-11 are provided in the following table. Corresponding estimates of total income and average rates of tax for these groups prior to 1999-2000 were not published and are not available.

*Table 2. Shares of total income tax liability*

| | Share of total income tax | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Taxpayers* | *Top 10%* | *Top 1%* | *Total income tax (£ billion)* |
| 1986-87 | 39.0 | 14.0 | 42.8 |
| 1990-91 | 42.0 | 15.0 | 60.2 |
| 1991-92 | 43.0 | 16.0 | 63.3 |
| 1992-93 | 44.0 | 16.0 | 60.7 |
| 1993-94 | 44.0 | 16.0 | 61.4 |
| 1994-95 | 45.0 | 17.0 | 66.3 |
| 1995-96 | 45.0 | 17.0 | 72.0 |
| 1996-97 | 48,0 | 20.0 | 73.7 |
| 1997-98 | 48.0 | 20.0 | 79.5 |
| 1998-99 | 49.0 | 21.0 | 88.0 |
| 1999-2000 | 50.3 | 21.3 | 93.2 |
| 2000-01 | 51.4 | 22.2 | 105.5 |
| 2001-02 | 51.9 | 21.8 | 107.0 |
| 2002-03 | 51.5 | 21.0 | 108.8 |
| 2003-04 | 50.9 | 20.8 | 110.6 |
| 2004-05 | 51.4 | 21.4 | 123.0 |
| 2005-06 | 52.9 | 22.7 | 138.1 |
| 2006-07 | 53.5 | 23.5 | 149.5 |
| 2007-08 | 54.3 | 24.4 | 162.7 |
| 2008-09 | 54.6 | 24.9 | 156.7 |
| 2009-10 | 54.3 | 25.0 | 150.6 |
| 2010-11 | 55.6 | 26.6 | 160.9 |

Estimates prior to 1999-2000 and further analyses of taxpayers, taxpayer incomes and tax liabilities in this period are available in "Inland Revenue Statistics, 1992 and 2000".

### Income Tax: Overpayments

**Mr Burley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs has received overpayments of income tax paid by PAYE in each of the last five years. [87631]

**Mr Gauke:** The information requested is unavailable. However, HMRC publishes all details of any income tax overpayments (including those collected via PAYE) in its annual accounts. Details are found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

### Inland Revenue: Gifts and Endowments

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from what date Inland Revenue required its employees to register all hospitality and gifts received. [87475]

**Mr Gauke:** The requirement for staff to make entries in a hospitality and gifts register has existed in the Inland Revenue, and subsequently in the merged Department of HM Revenue and Customs, for a period in excess of 10 years. The original date of introduction is unknown.

### Non-domestic Rates: Appeals

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many business rates appeals have been *(a)* received and *(b)* cleared by the Valuation Office Agency in each (i) region and (ii) local authority in each month in 2010-11. [87851]

**Mr Gauke:** The number of proposals *(a)* received and *(b)* cleared by the Valuation Office Agency in each (i) region and (ii) administrative area in each month for 2010-2011 financial year are shown in two sets of four tables placed in the Library.

### Personal Savings

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the rate of growth in the amount of savings held by UK nationals in each financial year since 2007-08. [88787]

**Mr Hoban:** The Wealth and Assets Survey provides an estimate of aggregate financial household wealth, including savings, surveyed in the period 2006-08.

The report can be found here:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/was/wealth-in-great-britain/main-results-from-the-wealth-and-assets-survey-2006-2008/index.html

The next release of this data, based on the period 2008-10, is due this year and will provide an estimate of the change in aggregate financial wealth between 2006-08 and 2008-10.

The Family Resources Survey collects data annually, and provides data regarding the savings and investments of households in each year since 1998. This resource can be used to estimate how the value and distribution of household savings has changed over time. These releases can be found here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/

## Public Expenditure: Housing

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Barnett consequentials for the Housing Plan for England are. [82710]

**Danny Alexander:** The Barnett consequentials arising from the housing package are set out in the following table:

| | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* |
| Scotland | 26.0 | 17.6 | -1.4 |
| Wales | 15.0 | 10.1 | -0.8 |
| Northern Ireland | 8.7 | 5.9 | -0.5 |

## Public Sector: Pensions

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 340W, on public sector: pensions, whether it is possible to quantify in cash terms the additional cost to the public purse arising from the increase in accrual rates for public sector pensions announced on 2 November 2011. [81720]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* Reforms to public service pensions will save the taxpayer tens of billions of pounds over the next few decades and significantly improve the long-term fiscal sustainability of this country. The Office for Budget Responsibility will provide a forecast of the savings in its next Fiscal Sustainability Report.

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average public sector pension is in Wales. [84299]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission found that the median public service pension in payment to retired public servants is £5,600 a year, and the mean £7,800 a year. More detailed information is available from the Departments responsible for the individual schemes.

## Revenue and Customs: Contracts

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much each company awarded a contract for handling calls on tax credits in the HM Revenue and Customs contact centres in Bathgate and Lillyhall will receive in payment. [87381]

**Mr Gauke:** The contracts with the third party suppliers, which have yet to be signed, will run for a maximum of 12 months. There are contract review points at the six and nine-month stages when a decision will be made as to whether to continue to the next break point in the contract. The value of each supplier contract will depend on a number of variables. It is therefore difficult to provide an indication, at this stage, as to the worth of each contract.

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to what taxpayer information staff employed by the private companies who have been awarded the contracts in the HM Revenue and Customs contact centres at Bathgate and Lillyhall will have access; and what steps his Department has taken to ensure that data security procedures are adhered to. [87382]

**Mr Gauke:** Advisers handling customer calls to HMRC helplines will normally have access to a range of information held by HMRC. This information is needed to handle the customer's reason for calling and to complete any necessary follow up action.

The integrity and confidentiality of customer information is, as ever, an absolute priority. HMRC will do nothing that compromises the Department's data security standards.

The third-party suppliers will be acting on behalf of HMRC and will be bound by exactly the same legal obligations. They will also be subject to the same penalties and sanctions regarding unlawful disclosure as HMRC and its directly employed staff. Additionally, HMRC will also, as it does for all third-party suppliers, include strict and robust data protection requirements within the contract. Staff recruited for this work will be subject to the same checks as are carried out in respect of staff recruited to HMRC.

## Revenue and Customs: Redundancy Pay

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many special severance payments HM Revenue and Customs has made in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of such payments for each of those years. [88190]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC has made no special severance payments during the last three years. Anyone who has left HMRC with a severance package during the last three years has done so under the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS) as part of an exit scheme which has been approved by the Cabinet Office. The severance package received by those individuals has been in line with their entitlement under the CSCS.

## Stamp Duties

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the legal avoidance of stamp duty on property sales through company structures; [88329]

(2) what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the legal avoidance of stamp duty on property sales through company structures; [88330]

(3) what representations he has received from the property sales industry on the legal avoidance of stamp duty on property sales through company structures. [88331]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** Stamp duty applies to transfers of stock and marketable securities via a stock transfer form.

There is no liable person for stamp duty and no statutory compulsion to present a document for stamping. So it is not appropriate to refer to "avoidance" in this context.

However, stamp duty land tax (SDLT) is charged on a land transaction. SDLT is payable by the purchaser in the usual way when a company acquires or disposes of property. As companies may own or sell property for a variety of different reasons it is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the kind requested.

The Treasury receives representations on all aspects of SDLT, including avoidance. These representations come from a wide range of individuals and organisations.

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice his Department provides to *(a)* small business estate agents and *(b)* other small businesses considering promoting the legal avoidance of stamp duty on property sales through company structures. [88564]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publishes a series of guides, known as "Spotlights"

www.hmrc.gov.uk/avoidance/spotlights.htm

which provide a consumer protection message aimed at deterring people from entering into tax avoidance. Spotlights No. 6, published in June 2010, makes it clear that where HMRC finds property sale arrangements that have been artificially structured to avoid paying the correct amount of stamp duty land tax (SDLT), these will be actively challenged, including through the courts where appropriate.

### Trading Funds

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to further regulate the sale of exchange-traded funds, including synthetic traded funds, to retail investors; and if he will make a statement. [88523]

**Mr Hoban:** Exchange-traded funds are regulated by the Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities (UCITS) directives. UCITS provides a harmonised EU regulatory framework for collective investment schemes designed to ensure these products are appropriate for retail investors.

The Government are aware of the recent developments in the exchange-traded funds industry and the concerns around the suitability of some of these products for retail investors. The Government believe that it is important for the UCITS brand that products sold under the UCITS directive are suitable for retail investors. We are working closely with the Financial Services Authority and Bank of England to analyse the risks associated with these products and consider what regulatory responses may be necessary.

### Universal Credit

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether legislative change is required to enable HM Revenue and Customs to share real-time PAYE information with the Department for Work and Pensions for the calculation of universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [88185]

**Mr Gauke:** The legislative changes required to enable HM Revenue and Customs to share real time PAYE information with the Department for Work and Pensions are contained within the Welfare Reform Bill which has passed the House of Lords Committee stage and is now in the middle of the Lords Report stage.

### VAT: Overpayments

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review arrangements for the refunding of overpayments of VAT paid by individuals to companies which have subsequently gone into liquidation. [88646]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 22 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 233W. There are no plans for a review.

### Working Tax Credit

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many couples with children receive working tax credit in respect of employment of between 16 and 24 hours per week in each parliamentary constituency; [88172]

(2) how many children live in households in receipt of working tax credit including a couple working 16 hours and 24 hours per week in each parliamentary constituency; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of working tax credit *(a)* paid to such couples in working tax credit in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 and *(b)* which will be paid to such couples in 2012. [88178]

**Mr Gauke:** The requested information as of December 2011 has been deposited in the Library of the House. Total amount of working tax credit paid is not available at the constituency level.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Adam Werritty

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Islington North (Jeremy Corbyn) of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 374W, on Adam Werritty, how many meetings in his official capacity Mr Matthew Gould has attended at which Mr Adam Werritty was present since the commencement of Mr Gould's employment at his Department in 1993. [87577]

**Mr Lidington:** The Department does not hold information listing all meetings held by officials. However, based on diary records in this case, we are aware of Mr Matthew Gould attending four meetings in his official capacity (8 September 2009, 16 June 2010, 1 September 2010, and 27 September 2010) at which Mr Adam Werritty was present. In addition to this, though they were not meetings, Mr Gould also attended the Herzliya conference in February 2011 and, as listed in the Cabinet Office report on the allegations against my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) of 18 September 2011, attended a dinner on 6 February 2011. Mr Werritty was present at these events.

### Algeria: Christianity

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Algerian authorities on the religious freedom of Christians in that country. [87877]

**Alistair Burt:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), discussed the importance of reform with the Algerian authorities during his visit in October.

We are aware that the Algerian authorities have closed some places of worship which have not been registered, including those of Christian groups, since new regulations governing religion in Algeria came into effect in May 2007. I discussed the situation with a delegation of Algerian Christians when I met them on 26 October.

The British Government raises the issue of human rights, including freedom of religion and belief, with the Government of Algeria through a variety of mechanisms, including the EU-Algeria Association Agreement, which came into force in September 2005. Following a recent visit by Mr Stefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, the EU and the Algerian Government have increased dialogue on these issues, by establishing a sub-committee on political dialogue, security and human rights. Freedom of religion, including for Christian groups, was discussed at the first meeting which was held in October.

### Algeria: Religious Freedom

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Algerian government on Ordinance 06-03 on freedom of religious expression in that country. [87883]

**Alistair Burt:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), visited Algeria in October 2011 where he discussed the importance of reform measures, including freedom of expression.

We are aware that the Algerian authorities have closed some places of worship which have not been registered, including those of Christian groups, since new regulations governing religion in Algeria came into effect in May 2007. I discussed the situation with a delegation of Algerian Christians when I met them on 26 October.

The British Government raises the issue of human rights, including freedom of religion and belief, with the Government of Algeria through a variety of mechanisms, including the EU-Algeria Association Agreement. The EU and the Algerian Government have increased dialogue on these issues by establishing a sub-committee on political dialogue, security and human rights. Freedom of religion, including for Christian groups, was discussed at the first meeting which was held in October.

### Arms Trade

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will lead the UK negotiating delegation *(a)* in preparation for and *(b)* at the next UN Preparatory Committee for the International Arms Trade Treaty in February 2012. [88036]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is the lead Government Department on an arms trade treaty, with the head of the FCO's Counter Proliferation Department acting as the head of the UK delegation.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral meetings (i) he and (ii) his officials have had with their international counterparts to discuss the agreement of a robust arms trade treaty in preparation for the final Preparatory Committee in February 2012. [88048]

**Alistair Burt:** Securing a robust and effective arms trade treaty (ATT) is a priority for the Government. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly raise the treaty with their international counterparts, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to highlight the importance of an ATT and to understand the positions of other states.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure a transparent reporting mechanism and effective monitoring and verification procedures are part of any agreement on the arms trade treaty. [88053]

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure a transparent reporting mechanism and effective monitoring and verification procedures are part of any agreement on the arms trade treaty. [88054]

**Alistair Burt:** The Government's commitment to transparent export controls is demonstrated through the publication of the UK's annual report on strategic export controls. The UK continues to argue for effective transparency mechanisms within an arms trade treaty, both on the treaty's application and its implementation, and regularly raises the issue in its meetings with other states and during the UN negotiations.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution his Department is making to developing policy on the inclusion of import, export, re-export, transit, transhipment, brokering activities and the gifting, loan or lease of arms within the terms of the arms trade treaty. [88057]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK supports an arms trade treaty (ATT) with a broad scope that covers a range of activities and transfers. The cross-Whitehall team on ATT has held a number of technical meetings on different aspects of the treaty, including how different types of transfer and activity could be dealt with by an ATT, and these meetings will continue as we approach the UN conference in July 2012.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's officials at each grade are working on the arms trade treaty negotiations; whether there has been any change in the personnel leading on this matter; and whether he expects any further changes to be made before July 2012. [88062]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Counter Proliferation Department lead on the negotiation of an arms trade treaty (ATT) and are supported by many other departments and posts across the FCO's extensive network. The FCO does not keep records on the different grades of officials working on the issue. The head of the FCO's Counter Proliferation Department leads the UK delegation on ATT.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has asked the National Security Council to discuss the arms trade treaty. [88611]

**Alistair Burt:** The National Security Council has not discussed an arms trade treaty (ATT). The UK has a cross-Whitehall team, with representatives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence, Department for International Development and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, working on ATT, with additional expertise supplied by other Government Departments as required.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution his Department has made to policy development on including small arms, light weapons and ammunition within the terms of the arms trade treaty. [88621]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK supports a comprehensive scope for an arms trade treaty (ATT), including small arms and light weapons and ammunition. The cross-Whitehall team on ATT has held a number of technical meetings on different aspects of the treaty, including on the treaty's scope, and these meetings will continue as we approach the UN conference in July 2012.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department provides *(a)* training and *(b)* detailed briefings on the arms trade treaty to all staff working in overseas posts; and what steps he is taking to ensure that the treaty is raised in all relevant bi-lateral meetings. [88623]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK maintains a leading global position on an arms trade treaty (ATT), and regularly provides updates and briefing on the treaty to overseas posts and senior officials. ATT is regularly raised in bilateral and multilateral meetings with states, and this outreach will intensify as we approach the crucial negotiating conference in July 2012.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he has had and *(b)* his officials have had with their EU counterparts on the EU position on the arms trade treaty. [88624]

**Alistair Burt:** The EU is strongly supportive of efforts to secure a robust and effective arms trade treaty (ATT). The EU and its member states regularly co-ordinate activity in support of the treaty at a dedicated EU ATT sub-group, attached to the COARM working group, and in EU co-ordination meetings before and during UN negotiations in New York.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that negotiations on the arms trade treaty in 2012 include representatives from civil society and non-governmental organisations. [88625]

**Alistair Burt:** Civil society and non-governmental organisations have played a crucial role in the progress made on an arms trade treaty (ATT) so far, including through regular meetings with UK officials and by providing a representative on the UK ATT team. Alongside Ambassador Moritan of Argentina, the Chair of the UN process on ATT, the UK has worked to ensure that civil society retain a voice in the UN Preparatory Committee meetings, and we will continue to support this approach at the UN conference in 2012.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which representatives from his Department have attended each of the UN Preparatory Committee meetings for the International Arms Trade treaty; and which representatives from his Department will attend the meeting in February 2012. [88628]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is the lead Government Department on an arms trade treaty. The head of the UK delegation is the head of the FCO's counter proliferation department. The UK delegation also includes other representatives from the FCO's counter proliferation department, its UK mission in Geneva, as well as representatives from cross-Whitehall Departments. This representational approach will continue at the Preparatory Committee meeting in February 2012.

### Bahrain: Human Rights

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* contacts and *(b)* meetings the UK embassy in Bahrain has had with human rights groups in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [88380]

**Alistair Burt:** Our embassy in Bahrain has been in contact with various human rights groups over the past 12 months, both from Bahrain and the international community. This has included organisations such as the Human Rights Defenders, Pen International, the Bahrain Human Rights Society and the Bahrain Transparency Society, among others.

We expect the Bahraini Government to meet all its human rights obligations by ensuring its citizens can exercise the universal human rights and freedoms to which they are entitled.

### British Nationals Abroad: Kidnapping

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department provides to relatives of British nationals kidnapped overseas. [87563]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff maintain regular contact with the relatives of British nationals kidnapped overseas, ensuring they are kept up to date with any developments. The exact level of support depends on the individual cases, but includes regular welfare phone calls and family meetings. If appropriate, we also put families in touch with other specialist agencies such as Hostage UK. In some cases, British police forces appoint a family liaison officer.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have been kidnapped abroad in each of the last five years. [87564]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We do not have an exact figure as not every case is brought to our attention, but our records show the number of kidnaps involving British nationals abroad in the past five years is shown in the following table.

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 71 |
| 2008 | 83 |
| 2009 | 47 |
| 2010 | 59 |
| 2011 | 40 |

### Colombia: Armed Conflict

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to reach a politically negotiated solution to the conflict in Colombia. [87458]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Colombia's President, Juan Manuel Santos has stated, including during his visit to the United Kingdom in November, that he would like to return peace to Colombia. His Government has set out clear conditions for initiating a political peace process with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. These include the release of all hostages, an end to the recruitment of child soldiers and stopping the use of anti-personnel mines. We have told the President that he has the British Government's full support in his wish to find a lasting solution to Colombia's armed conflict.

We agree that a political process is an essential part of reaching that end and remain content to provide support to a formal peace process in response to any formal request from the Colombian Government. We already work closely with the Colombian Government in a number of areas where progress is essential for a lasting peace, such as on the new Land and Victims' Law and in tackling drug trafficking.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88361]

**Mr Lidington:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has used the services of a debt recovery agency (Clarke Willmott) on one occasion in the UK since May 2010.

Overseas, finances within the FCO are devolved to our network of nearly 270 posts and details of any debt recovery agencies used could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013. [88731]

**Mr Bellingham:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services, a trading fund of the FCO which provides secure services worldwide, has run an apprenticeship scheme since the 1960s. New apprentices are taken once a year in September, and the programme lasts for three years. Run in conjunction with Milton Keynes college, the programme runs in line with the academic calendar and the figures shown in the following table represent the total number of people enrolled on the scheme.

| | *Total number of people enrolled on the scheme* |
|---|---|
| April 2010 until September 2010 | 40 |
| September 2011 until September 2012 | 29 |
| September 2012 until September 2013 | [1]29 |

[1] Planned.

None of the other public bodies for which the FCO is responsible reports any apprenticeship schemes over the specified period.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88732]

**Mr Bellingham:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services, a trading fund of the FCO which provides secure services worldwide, has run an apprenticeship scheme since the 1960s. New apprentices are taken once a year in September, and the programme lasts for three years. Run in conjunction with Milton

Keynes college, the programme runs in line with the academic calendar and the figures shown in the following table represent the cost of the scheme to FCO Services as a business.

Expenditure on the programme is as follows:

| *April to March each year* | £ |
|---|---|
| *(a)* 2010-11 | 1,056,000 |
| *(b)* 2011-12 | [1]962,000 |
| *(c)* 2012-13 | [2]— |

[1] Estimated.

[2] Figure not known but will be in line with current financial year.

In the second and third year of the programme, apprentices can work on live projects in order to gain the necessary skills and experience. This means that some of the costs can be recovered where work is chargeable.

None of the other public bodies for which the FCO is responsible reports any spending on apprenticeship schemes over the specified period.

## Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88582]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) considers equality issues in exercising its functions, to comply with equality legislation and to ensure it understands how its activities will affect different people. Information about the number of such documents published by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, equality impact assessments carried out since May 2010 include those to evaluate: the UK Estate Reform programme; changes to the system of promotion for administrative assistants and administrative officers; changes to the policy on the provision of accommodation for staff serving overseas; a proposed reduction in the number of overseas postings at administrative officer and executive officer level; and the e-learning training service.

## Departmental Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [88015]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not made any redundancy payments to civil servants between September and November 2011.

## Departmental Written Questions

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 602W, on departmental written questions, what the question number is of each written parliamentary question which was answered after 30 sitting days. [88152]

**Mr Lidington:** The question numbers were UIN21457, UIN21467, UIN54582 and UIN54598.

## Diplomatic Service

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of its provision of consular services in each overseas country; and if he will make a statement. [87472]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Our consular services are described in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) publication "Support for British nationals abroad: A guide" which is available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/support-for-british-nationals-abroad.pdf

This includes a customer charter containing targets for services such as issuing emergency travel documents and contacting British nationals in hospital or detention. Our internal management information allows us to measure performance against these targets in each country.

We also actively encourage British nationals to provide feedback on our services through a customer satisfaction survey which is available online and in paper format at our embassies and consulates. We use customer feedback to inform us about the quality of our services and identify areas for improvement. In addition, we take account of feedback from Members of Parliament, the travel industry and our non-governmental organisation partners.

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria his Department uses to determine what forms of consular service it provides in overseas countries; and if he will make a statement. [87473]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Our consular services are described in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) publication "Support for British nationals abroad: A guide" which is available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/support-for-british-nationals-abroad.pdf

We have four major areas of activity:

(i) We help British nationals who are in difficulty abroad in a range of situations including: victims of crime, hospitalisations, deaths, detentions, forced marriages, child abductions, missing people and kidnapping.

(ii) We respond to major crises affecting British nationals abroad.

(iii) We issue emergency travel documents and provide notarial and documentary services.

(iv) We also provide travel advice and other information in order for British nationals to avoid trouble and stay safe overseas.

We consulted widely in shaping our consular strategy for 2010-13—available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/publications

We commissioned research in order to improve our understanding of our customers, their requirements and how best to provide services to them.

We also take account of what British nationals, both travellers and residents, tell us about our services in response to our customer satisfaction survey or through complaints and compliments.

We listen to the feedback we receive from Members of Parliament, non-governmental organisations and others. As a result, our efforts are focused on providing the highest quality assistance to the most vulnerable people in the most difficult situations, working with partners if they are best placed to provide the service. For example, during 2011, we have enhanced the support provided to families bereaved by a murder or manslaughter abroad, working in partnership with the Victim Support National Homicide Service.

### Employment Agencies

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [88017]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent a total of £26,128.14 on recruitment agencies since September 2011.

The monthly spend is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| September | 14,114.64 |
| October | 0 |
| November | 6,337.20 |
| December | 5,676.30 |

This figure covers recruitment for UK-based members of staff only. It excludes recruitment undertaken by overseas posts advertising for local staff positions as the figures for this are not held centrally. All of the positions for which external recruitment campaigns were held during this period were approved for external recruitment as either business critical or a front line service, in accordance with the terms of the Government-wide recruitment freeze.

### Eritrea: Politics and Government

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Eritrea on *(a)* its human rights observance and *(b)* the UN sanctions policy; and if he will make a statement. [88550]

**Mr Bellingham:** The information requested is as follows:

*Human rights*

We regularly discuss the importance of human rights observance with the Government of Eritrea at both official and ministerial level. Most recently, I expressed concerns to the Eritrean Foreign Minister Osman Saleh in a meeting on 21 September last year. I raised a number of specific cases including the case of the 'G11'group of opposition figures detained without charge since 2001. On 23 September, the 10th anniversary of the arrest of the G11, I issued a statement offering solidarity to all those Eritreans engaged in the struggle for human rights. The British ambassador in Asmara regularly raises human rights issues with the Eritrean Government. Human rights concerns are also regularly raised between the EU and the Eritrean Government.

*UN Sanctions*

UN Security Council Resolution 2023 on the extension of sanctions on Eritrea was adopted by majority vote by the UN Security Council on 5 December last year. We see the sanctions as appropriate, proportionate, and carefully targeted to prevent any negative humanitarian impact. The Prime Minister wrote to President Isaias on 20 September about the Eritrean refutation of the UN Somalia-Eritrea Monitoring Group's allegations that the Eritrean leadership had committed multiple violations of Security Council resolutions. I raised allegations about Eritrea's involvement in the Addis Ababa bomb plot with Mr Saleh on 21 September and have corresponded with Mr Saleh on UN sanctions policy. The issue has also been discussed at official level.

### Ethiopia: Politics and Government

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of *(a)* Somalia and *(b)* Ethiopia on the Ogaden and its people; and if he will make a statement. [88552]

**Mr Bellingham:** There have been no recent meetings with the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia on the Ogaden and its people.

I discussed the Ogaden with Regional President, Abdi Mohammed Omar, when I visited Ethiopia's Somali region in late July 2011. The British embassy in Addis Ababa also regularly discusses the Ogaden region with Ethiopian Federal and Regional Government. The issue was discussed most recently by the chargé d'affaires and Hailemarian Dessalegn, the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister, in late November. In these discussions we stressed the importance of ensuring that the response to the region's genuine security concerns is proportionate and avoids causing suffering to the civilian population, and have highlighted the need for humanitarian agencies to have adequate access to the region.

We welcome the two peace agreements in 2010 between the Ethiopian Government and the United Western Somali Liberation Front and one faction of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). We hope that meaningful progress towards peace will be achieved through the effective implementation of these agreements and through further dialogue between Ethiopia and the remaining faction of the ONLF.

### Falkland Islands

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of staff resource allocated to the team within his Department with responsibility for the Falkland Islands. [87370]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Overall responsibility for Falkland Islands policy in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) sits with the Overseas Territories Directorate, working in close co-operation with others in London as well as with staff in Stanley and Buenos Aires and elsewhere in Latin America.

Our current staff resource is appropriate, but as with the rest of FCO staffing levels is periodically reviewed so we have the flexibility to respond to operational demand.

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of an attempted economic blockade of the

Falkland Islands by Argentina; and what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* ships have a right of passage and *(b)* there is freedom of air access to and from the Islands. [87371]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We reject Argentina's attempts to intimidate the Falkland Islands population through economic pressure.

We do not consider Argentina's Presidential Decree 256, passed in February 2010, to be compliant with international law and have repeatedly protested it in private and in public, including in letters circulated at the United Nations General Assembly. The decree does not appear to have had a practical impact on the passage of vessels between the Falkland Islands and South America.

On 15 December the Government of Uruguay declared that it would deny access to its ports to ships flying the Falkland Islands flag. This was followed four days later by a statement from the summit of the Mercosur group of countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, with associate members including Chile) that echoed the Uruguayan announcement. We have protested strongly this development and held productive and honest discussions with Uruguay, Chile and Brazil about the practical implications. All three countries have said that they have no intention of participating in an economic blockade of the Falkland Islands and that all Falklands-related commercial shipping will continue to enjoy access to their ports, in accordance with domestic and international law, if they are flying the Red Ensign or another national flag while docked.

The British Government maintain twice weekly flights between the Falkland Islands and the UK and continue to monitor and support other air access routes to and from the Islands. This includes LAN Chile's weekly flight between Punta Arenas and Port Stanley, which President Kirchner threatened in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in September. We have stressed that support for this or any other move to intimidate an innocent civilian population through economic pressure would be unacceptable and unbecoming for any Latin American democracy. We are not aware of any further action by Argentina to give effect to Mrs Kirchner's threat and continue to monitor developments very closely.

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on relations between Argentina and British companies wishing to work in the Falkland Islands. [87372]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Many British companies operate successfully in Argentina, but Argentina prohibits by law any company operating there if it is connected to the hydrocarbons sector in the Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islanders have the right to trade openly and without hindrance. The British Government support unreservedly the right of any company to work on the Falkland Islands, including those from the United Kingdom, and rejects Argentina's attempts to restrict this.

## Forced Marriage

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many forced marriage cases have occurred in the UK in each of the last five years. [87812]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not collate data on the number of forced marriages that have occurred in the UK in each of the last five years. However, the number of instances where the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has provided advice or support related to a possible forced marriage is as follows:

2010: 1,735 reports of forced marriage.

2009: 1,682 reports of forced marriage.

2008: 1,618 reports of forced marriage.

Prior to 2008 the FMU only collated data on cases where direct assistance was provided, which comprised the following:

2007: 262 cases of forced marriage.

2006: 197 cases of forced marriage.

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many forced marriages the Forced Marriage Unit has prevented in each of the last five years. [87813]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) does not hold data on the number of forced marriages it has prevented in each of the last five years. However, the number of instances where the FMU has provided advice or support related to a possible forced marriage is as follows:

| | *Reports of forced marriage* |
|---|---|
| 2010 | 1,735 |
| 2009 | 1,682 |
| 2008 | 1,618 |

Prior to 2008 the FMU only collated data on cases where direct assistance was provided:

| | *Cases of forced marriage* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 262 |
| 2006 | 197 |

## Forced Marriage: Young People

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many victims of forced marriages were *(a)* women, *(b)* men and *(c)* under the age of 16 years in each of the last five years. [87814]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** In 2010, the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) provided advice or support in 1,735 cases of possible forced marriage. Of these, 1,388 cases (86%) involved female victims and 243 cases (14%) involved male victims. The FMU provided direct assistance in 469 cases. Of these 240 were British nationals in need of assistance abroad, or victims in the UK; and 229 were the reluctant sponsor in an entry clearance application. Of the 240 assistance cases, 11 cases involved minors under the age of 16.

In 2009, the FMU provided advice or support in 1,682 cases of possible forced marriage. Of these, 1,447 cases (86%) involved female victims and 235 cases (14%) involved male victims. The FMU provided direct assistance in 377 cases. Of these 240 were British nationals in need of assistance abroad, or victims in the UK; and 137 were the reluctant sponsor in entry clearance applications. Of the 240 assistance cases, 15 cases involved minors under the age of 16.

In 2008, the FMU provided advice or support in 1,618 cases of possible forced marriage. Of these, 1,375 cases (85%) involved female victims and 243 (15%) involved male victims. The FMU provided direct assistance in 430 cases. Of these, 222 were British nationals in need of assistance abroad, or victims in the UK; and 208 the reluctant sponsor in entry clearance applications. Of the 222 assistance cases, 12 cases involved minors under the age of 16.

Prior to 2008 the FMU only collated data on cases where direct assistance was provided:

| | *Cases of forced marriage* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 262 |
| 2006 | 197 |

### Haiti: Reconstruction

**Mark Menzies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has taken steps within the UN to seek a change in the UN mandate in Haiti from one of peacekeeping to one of reconstruction. [88545]

**Mr Bellingham:** The role of the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) is to maintain peace and security, and to provide an enabling environment in which civilian UN and other international development agencies such as the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and European Union can work with the Haitian authorities to achieve their reconstruction and development goals. Peacekeepers should not be tasked to undertake reconstruction or development roles that others are better able to perform. We have argued at the UN Security Council that development of the Haitian National Police should be MINUSTAH's first priority and have called on the Government of Haiti to engage fully in what needs to be a joint capacity building effort. While this is underway, Haiti will require the continued support of MINUSTAH and international donors to bolster the capacity of its rule of law and security institutions.

### Ilois: Resettlement

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total legal costs have been incurred to date by his Department in defending actions brought by the Chagos Islanders; and what the cost to date to the public purse is of the case before the European Court of Human Rights. [88553]

**Mr Bellingham:** Legal costs incurred by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in defending cases brought by Chagossians are £1,757,390.92, inc VAT, since 2001. We do not hold easily accessible figures for the Vencatassen case brought in 1975.

Additionally, the costs to the public purse related to the European Court of Human Rights case are £32,377 ex VAT. These figures do not include legal aid to the plaintiffs.

### Lancaster House: Energy Performance Certificates

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the energy performance certificate rating is of Lancaster House. [88445]

**Mr Lidington:** Lancaster House does not have an energy performance certificate (EPC) as it has not been constructed, sold or rented since the introduction of EPCs. It has a display energy certificate (DEC). Its DEC operational rating is 65 Band C.

### Laos: Diplomatic Service

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to provide a permanently staffed consular service in Laos. [87474]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no plans at present to open a UK post in Laos. Consular services in Laos are provided by our embassy in Bangkok and the Australian embassy in Vientiane.

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consular services his Department provides to British citizens in Laos; and if he will make a statement. [87476]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Our consular services are described in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) publication "Support for British nationals abroad: A guide" which is available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/support-for-british-nationals-abroad.pdf

Consular services for British nationals in Laos are provided by our embassy in Bangkok and the Australian embassy in Vientiane.

### Libya: Assets

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to apply to the UN Sanctions Committee to release some or all of the Libyan assets frozen in the UK. [87705]

**Alistair Burt:** Working with the Libyan authorities, the UK led the way in securing the removal of UN sanctions from the Central Bank of Libya and the Libya Arab Foreign Bank, which was agreed by the UN Sanctions Committee on Friday 16 December. Once the EU has passed the relevant regulations in response to this UN decision around £6.5 billion of assets held in the UK will be unfrozen. We will continue to work with the Libyan Government and other nations to agree the steps required to remove the remaining sanctions, so that Libya's assets can be used for the benefit of its people.

### Libya: Politics and Government

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what access to security information held by the *(a)* current government and *(b)* previous regime in Libya has been offered to UK officials inquiring into the cases of those forcibly returned to Libya before April 2011. [88384]

**Alistair Burt:** It is the policy of successive British Governments not to comment on security and intelligence matters.

### Nigeria: Equality

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to promote equality in Nigeria; [87569]

(2) whether he has held discussions with his Nigerian counterpart on the subject of equality. [87566]

**Mr Bellingham:** The British Government address the problems of inequality, poverty, gender, inter-communal violence, treatment of minorities and human rights in Nigeria in a number of different ways. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office works alongside other Government Departments, especially the Department for International Development (DFID), to implement effective programmes in these areas. DFID spends an average of £250 million per year in Nigeria, working to reduce poverty and establish sustainable solutions to the divisions in Nigerian society, working towards a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Nigeria. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has not had specific discussions with his Nigerian counterpart on equality. However, through our high commission in Abuja, we continue to deliver messages to the Nigerian Government, at all levels, about the importance of equality and protection of human rights in underpinning a strong, democratic society.

The Prime Minister visited Nigeria in July, and agreed a communiqué with President Goodluck Jonathan setting out the direction of the UK/Nigeria relationship. Both leaders expressed their commitment to ensuring a strong democratic base in Nigeria and sustainable economic growth. The Prime Minister outlined the UK's commitment to development assistance so as to create this positive environment.

### Occupied Territories: Housing

**Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Europe of 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 304WH, on Israel, under which international laws settlements are illegal. [88406]

**Alistair Burt:** Settlements are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, to which Israel is a state party. Articles 47-78 of this convention impose substantial obligations on occupying powers. As well as numerous provisions for the general welfare of the inhabitants of an occupied territory, an occupier may not forcibly deport protected persons, or deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into occupied territory (Art.49).

The Occupied Palestinian Territories were not lawfully part of the state of Israel at its creation or at any point thereafter, and we consider that the level of control that Israel retains over the territories amounts to occupation under international law. The Supreme Court of Israel has previously found that the West Bank is held in belligerent occupation. And the International Court of Justice has held that the West Bank and East Jerusalem are occupied territories and that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies. The legal arguments for that finding can be found in the full record of the advisory opinion.

### Sikhs

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will have discussions with the Sikh Council UK and Sikh Federation (UK) on policy matters relating to the Sikh community; [87195]

(2) what plans he has to met the Sikh Federation (UK) to discuss Italian airport security checks on British Sikhs; [87198]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Italian Government on airport security checks on British Sikhs. [87199]

**Mr Lidington:** The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) leads on engagement with faith communities. I do not currently have plans to meet the Sikh Federation (UK). DCLG has been facilitating discussions between the Department for Transport and a range of bodies representing British Sikhs on security checks at European airports. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have also been in contact with the Sikh Federation (UK).

I understand that the Italian authorities confirmed in June that Sikhs would no longer be required to remove their turbans at airports. Furthermore, officials in the Department for Transport have been in contact with officials in the Italian embassy in London and have met with Sikh representative organisations over the course of 2011.

### Somalia: Conferences

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will attend the International Conference on Somalia in London in February 2012. [88381]

**Mr Bellingham:** The London Conference on Somalia on 23 February 2012 will seek to deliver a new, action-oriented international approach to Somalia building on the progress being made on the ground.

The attendance list is being finalised. Governments and multilateral organisations that are active and influential on Somalia, as well as representatives from Somalia itself, have been invited to the conference.

We will also organise a number of events in January and February to ensure that civil society and Somali Diaspora representatives have an opportunity to contribute to the conference outcomes.

### Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the recent publication in Sri Lanka of the report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, what recent representations he has made to his Sri Lankan counterparts concerning investigation of enforced disappearances in that country. [88066]

**Alistair Burt:** The Sri Lankan Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report states the issue of missing persons is a matter which needs urgently to be addressed. We look forward to hearing from the Sri Lankan Government how they intend to do this. According to local Sri Lankan media there were 13 incidents of extrajudicial killings or disappearances between November and December. Most cases of past disappearances remain unresolved and our high commission in Colombo regularly raises concerns with relevant authorities in Sri Lanka regarding disappearances.

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 607W, on Sri Lanka: politics and government, what assessment he has made of whether the recent report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission demonstrates Sri Lanka's commitment to *(a)* national reconciliation and *(b)* accountability. [88067]

**Alistair Burt:** We have been studying the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's report in detail and intend to make a statement shortly. We look forward to the Sri Lankan Government acting upon the recommendations.

**Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the establishment of an international investigation into alleged wartime abuses in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [88084]

**Alistair Burt:** Since the end of the military conflict, the UK and other members of the international community have consistently called for an independent, thorough and credible investigation into the allegations that war crimes were committed by both sides.

Under international law it is the primary responsibility of the state concerned to investigate and, where necessary, prosecute credible allegations of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

**Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to support an international investigative mechanism into the Sri Lankan conflict; and if he will make a statement. [88085]

**Alistair Burt:** Since the end of the military conflict, the UK and other members of the international community have consistently called for an independent, thorough and credible investigation into the allegations that war crimes were committed by both sides.

We believe that the process of reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities has a greater chance of success if investigations are Sri Lankan led rather than externally imposed.

**Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings officials of his Department *(a)* have had and *(b)* plan to have with members of the United Nations Secretary-General's Panel of Experts to discuss the report of the Sri Lankan Government's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. [88086]

**Alistair Burt:** There have been no meetings between Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and members of the United Nations Secretary-General's Panel of Experts. There are no current plans for any meetings in the foreseeable future.

**Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* comprehensiveness and *(b)* accuracy of the report of the Sri Lankan Government's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. [88087]

**Alistair Burt:** We have been studying the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's report in detail and intend to make a statement shortly. We look forward to the Sri Lankan Government acting upon the recommendations.

**Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with his counterpart in (i) in Sri Lanka and (ii) elsewhere on the report of the Sri Lankan Government's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. [88088]

**Alistair Burt:** Officials from our high commission in Colombo attended the briefing session that Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, GL Peiris, gave on 19 December. I spoke to Foreign Minister Peiris on 6 January.

Officials discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with international partners on a regular basis.

**Mr Virendra Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration he has given to the recommendations contained in the Sri Lankan Government's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report. [88376]

**Alistair Burt:** We have been studying the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's report in detail and intend to make a statement shortly. We look forward to the Sri Lankan Government acting upon the recommendations.

**Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from *(a)* the International Crisis Group, *(b)* Amnesty International and *(c)* Human Rights Watch on the Sri Lankan government's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report. [88528]

**Alistair Burt:** We have received no direct representations from International Crisis Group (ICG), Amnesty International (AI) or Human Rights Watch (HRW). I am however aware of the statements that have been made by ICG, AI and HRW following the publication of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's report.

**Mr Virendra Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the contribution by the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire of 15 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 1291, on human rights in the Indian Subcontinent, what assessment he has made of whether Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report sets out clear steps towards accountability in respect of allegations of war crimes. [88544]

**Alistair Burt:** We have been studying the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's report in detail and intend to make a statement shortly. We look forward to the Sri Lankan Government acting upon the recommendations.

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the witness protection mechanisms of Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. [88664]

**Alistair Burt:** Sri Lanka does not have a functioning witness protection system and the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) did not establish any separate procedures. Unidentified plain-clothed individuals reportedly photographed civilians who testified during its public hearings, which ran from August 2010 to March 2011. Despite this, a number of affected civilians gave evidence. The majority were concerned about locating disappeared and missing relatives. Our high commission in Colombo has raised concerns with the Sri Lankan Government over witness protection for those appearing before the LLRC on a number of occasions.

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on implementation of the recommendations in the UN Panel of Experts report on Sri Lanka. [88666]

**Alistair Burt:** We have urged the Sri Lankan Government to respond constructively to the UN Panel's report. Officials discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with international partners on a regular basis.

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report. [88797]

**Alistair Burt:** We have been studying the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's report in detail and intend to make a statement shortly. We look forward to the Sri Lankan Government acting upon the recommendations.

## Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in Sri Lanka. [87210]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK wants to see Sri Lanka achieve a lasting and equitable peace through an inclusive political solution that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict and takes into account the legitimate grievances and aspirations of all Sri Lankan communities. Progress in the last two years has been mixed. We continue to press all key players to do more.

The Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, a Government appointed commission to examine events relating to the civil war from 2002 to 2009, published its report on 16 December 2011. We are studying the report and intend to make a statement shortly.

## Syria: Christianity

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations to the Syrian government he has made arising from reports of the persecution of Christians in Syria; what other steps he has taken in response to such reports; and if he will make a statement. [87880]

**Alistair Burt:** We make clear in our contacts with the Syrian regime our deep concerns about ongoing human rights abuses in Syria and the need for the regime to stop the violence against its own people.

The Assad regime has demonstrated that it is unwilling to protect the rights, freedoms and interest of Syrians. We believe President Assad's actions include a deliberate attempt to ferment sectarian tensions across Syria, especially in Homs where we have seen an increase in levels of violence. The regime's actions continue to undermine the stability and security of Syria and therefore endanger all of Syria's citizens, including religious minorities. President Assad has lost legitimacy and should step aside.

We are encouraging Syrian opposition groups to reach out and engage with minority communities, including Christians, and to maintain a clear commitment to a peaceful and non-sectarian approach. They should reassure all Syrians that they are working towards a Syrian state which is democratic, inclusive, representative, respectful of its ethnic and religious minorities and which adheres to international human rights conventions.

Following his meeting with members of Syria's opposition on 21 November, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), made a statement which urged opposition representatives to unite around a common political platform that will enable the people of Syria to see a pathway to a clear alternative to dictatorship and repression. He particularly stressed the importance of respecting the rights of minorities, so that all Syria's citizens are protected and have a stake in the future of the country.

## Syria: Opposition

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what diplomatic recognition he has given to representatives of the Syrian opposition. [87697]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK Government have not given diplomatic recognition to any representatives of the Syrian opposition. It is not for the UK to recognise the Syrian opposition; it is for the Syrian people. We believe it is vital for the many groups that form the Syrian opposition to work together to define a plan for a transition to a more open political system in Syria. We encourage them to maintain their peaceful and non-sectarian approach, and to work towards a Syria which will be democratic, inclusive, representative, respectful of its ethnic and religious minorities and adheres to international law.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), last saw members of the Syrian opposition on 21 November 2011, including Dr. Burhan Ghalioun, the Chairman of the largest opposition umbrella group, the Syrian National Council (SNC). The Secretary of State urged the opposition representatives to unite around a common political platform that would enable the people of Syria to see a pathway to a clear alternative to dictatorship and repression. The Secretary of State also appointed Frances Guy, an ambassador-level official, to take forward Her Majesty's Government's discussions with the Syrian opposition.

### Syria: Politics and Government

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on how many refugees have left Syria for *(a)* Turkey, *(b)* Jordan and *(c)* Lebanon in 2011 to date. [87792]

**Alistair Burt:** The Turkish Government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) are reporting that there are 8,400 refugees remaining in Turkey.

In Jordan the UNHCR reported on 15 December that 1,832 Syrian's had registered with them since the 1 March.

The UNHCR have also recently reported that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon is now 4,500.

We have made clear our condemnation of the situation in Syria and called upon the Syrian Government to end the violence against civilians immediately.

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Syria. [88353]

**Alistair Burt:** The United Nations estimates that over 5,000 people have been killed, including 300 children, since protests started in March 2011. British Government Ministers have made clear our concern about the situation in Syria and our condemnation of violence and repression against civilians by the Syrian regime security forces. We support the efforts of the Arab League to put pressure on the Syrian regime to end the violence and its current observer mission. We are deeply concerned that the Syrian regime has not implemented the Arab League plan to which it agreed on 2 November 2011. This set out that the Syrian regime would end the violence; withdraw troops from the streets of Syria; release detainees and engage in a meaningful dialogue with oppositionists. We encourage the Syrian oppositionists to work together to define a united, peaceful vision for the future of Syria. We have intensified our engagement with Syrian opposition by appointing an ambassador-level contact.

The bomb attacks in Damascus on 23 December 2011 and 6 January 2012 are a worrying sign of the increasing instability in Syria. We have made clear our belief that President Assad should step aside in the best interests of Syria and the unity of its people.

### Unmanned Air Vehicles

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish his Department's policy on the provision of intelligence to facilitate attacks by drone aircraft. [87949]

**Alistair Burt:** We do not comment on intelligence matters. All activity, whether in support of UK or allied forces, is authorised and in strict accordance with UK policy and law.

Drone strikes are a matter for the US and Pakistan. Both are key allies, who are facing a shared and dangerous threat from violent extremists who also threaten the UK. There is a need for effective action, and for Pakistani ownership of the fight against violent extremism. It is important that Pakistan and the international community continue to work together to combat this common threat, and we expect all concerned to act in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

### Yemen: Politics and Government

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 665-66W, on Yemen, what assessment he has made of whether units of the Yemani security forces trained by the UK have been involved in human rights violations against protesters. [87946]

**Alistair Burt:** There have been credible reports that some elements of the Yemeni security forces may have committed human rights violations to control and disperse crowds of protesters, raising concern and condemnation from the international community including the United Nations. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and I have publicly expressed our serious concern at the use of lethal force, and called for restraint and for those responsible to be brought to justice. The UK has actively supported work by the UN Security Council, leading to resolution 2014, and discussions at the Human Rights Council and the successfully adopted resolution in September.

It is well known that the UK has been working with the Yemeni Government for some years to increase the capability of its armed forces to tackle the threat posed by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and to help develop a non-lethal public order capability within the Yemeni Security forces. All training supporting the Yemeni Central Security Force and Coastguard was suspended in spring last year due to the deteriorating security situation. All training was delivered in accordance with UK values and international human rights standards. Before providing any military support or training to Yemeni forces, the UK Government seek assurances that these forces will not be deployed on operations outside their mandate or in breach of human rights.

While we know of reports of various units of the Yemeni security forces exercising disproportionate levels of force against unarmed protesters, we are not aware of reports confirming the participation of units which have received UK-delivered training.

## WALES

### Business Support

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps the Government are taking to help small and medium-sized enterprises in Wales to grow. [86298]

**Mrs Gillan:** Economic development is devolved in Wales so it is for the Welsh Government to take a leading role in helping small and medium-sized enterprises.

In the last 16 months, the Government have announced a number of measures intended to help businesses across Wales to grow:

additional expenditure on important infrastructure including electrifying the Great Western Mainline to South Wales;

creating a superfast broadband network with £57.9 million allocated to Wales and additional funding committed to Cardiff as a super-connected city;

cutting corporation tax, reforming the tax system and simplifying our tax codes;

a national insurance contributions holiday for new start-ups outside London, the south east and the east of England, worth up to £5,000 for each of the first ten employees hired in the first year;

reducing regulation and stopping new unnecessary legislation being brought in; and

securing agreement with four of the UK's biggest high street banks to lend £76 billion to small and medium-sized enterprises this year—£10 billion or 15% more than was lent in 2010.

And in last month's autumn statement, we announced further measures to help businesses, including SMEs across Wales such as:

deferring the January fuel duty increase and cancelling the August inflation rise;

Implementing credit easing measures to benefit small and medium-sized enterprises; and

a range of measures to support an increase in SME exports.

We remain committed to working with the Welsh Government for the benefit of the Welsh economy.

### Christmas

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department plans to hold a *(a)* Christmas carol concert and *(b)* Christmas party for its staff in 2011. [86296]

**Mrs Gillan:** The Department did not hold a carol concert, but the Under-Secretary of State for Wales, my hon. Friend the Member for Clwyd West (Mr Jones), and I hosted a small party for the staff in London and Cardiff in December 2011 at our personal expense, to thank them for their efforts over the year.

### Coal

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the First Minister of the Welsh Government and *(b)* representatives of the coal industry in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [88109]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have regular discussions with the First Minister and with industry leaders on a range of issues affecting Wales.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times her Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if she will make a statement. [88360]

**Mr David Jones:** The Wales Office has never used debt recovery companies.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people were working in her Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87353]

**Mr David Jones:** There were 59 staff working in the Wales Office on 11 May 2010, and 51 staff working there on 8 December 2011.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in her Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87973]

**Mr David Jones:** No redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in the Wales Office during this period.

### Secondment

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what secondments there have been to her Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86146]

**Mr David Jones:** There have been no secondments to the Wales Office during this period from either industry or the third sector.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many temporary staff were recruited to her Department between September and November 2011. [87974]

**Mr David Jones:** One member of staff was recruited to the Wales Office on a temporary basis during this period.

### Devolution

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date she last met the Chair of the Commission on Devolution in Wales. [86261]

**Mrs Gillan:** I met the Chair on 4 November 2011.

### Domestic Visits

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many nights she has spent in North Wales on official business since May 2010. [86268]

**Mrs Gillan:** We have defined North Wales to include the following constituencies—Ynys Mon, Arfon, Aberconwy, Clwyd West, Vale of Clwyd, Delyn, Alyn and Deeside, Wrexham and Clwyd South. On that basis I have spent five nights in North Wales on official business since May 2010.

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many visits to Wales she *(a)* made in 2011 and *(b)* expects to make in 2012. [86275]

**Mrs Gillan:** I made around 60 official visits to Wales in 2011. Diary arrangements are not finalised for 2012.

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when she last visited *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Swansea, *(c)* Newport, *(d)* Bangor, *(e)* Anglesey, *(f)* Blaenau Gwent, *(g)* Merthyr Tydfil, *(h)* Pontypridd, *(i)* Pembrokeshire, *(j)* Carmarthen, *(k)* Monmouthshire, *(l)* the Vale of Glamorgan and *(m)* Llanelli. [86304]

**Mrs Gillan:** The Under-Secretary of State for Wales, my hon. Friend the Member for Clwyd West (Mr Jones), and I make regular visits across Wales in both an official and political capacity. The information requested is as follows:

(a) 6 December 2011;
(b) 12 December 2011;
(c) 23 June 2011;
(d) 26 August 2010;
(c) 26 August 2010;
(f) 18 November 2010;
(g) None;
(h) 12 July 2010;
(i) 1 July 2011;
(j) 28 February 2011;
(k) 18 August 2010;
(l) 18 August 2010;
(m) 9 October 2011.

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many official visits she has made to *(a)* Wales and *(b)* North Wales since May 2010. [86305]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have made over 100 visits to a wide range of destinations in Wales since being appointed Secretary of State for Wales.

## Domestic Visits: Higher Education

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times she has *(a)* visited and *(b)* met representatives of (i) the university of Wales, (ii) Cardiff university, (iii) Swansea university, (iv) Bangor university, (v) Aberystwyth university, (vi) Glamorgan University, (vii) the university of Wales, Newport, (viii) Glyndwr university and (ix) Cardiff metropolitan university since May 2010. [86266]

**Mrs Gillan:** The information requested is shown in the following table which includes visits and meetings undertaken by both myself and the Under-Secretary of State for Wales, my hon. Friend the Member for Clwyd West (Mr Jones), who I have asked to take lead responsibility for universities. He and I also met with all Welsh Vice-Chancellors and Higher Education Wales on 11 May 2011.

| *University* | *Visits* | *Meetings* |
|---|---|---|
| University of Wales | — | 18 November 2010 |
| Cardiff University | 7 March 2011 | 4 October 2010 |
| | — | 16 February 2011 |
| | — | 30 June 2011 |
| Swansea University | 7 June 2010 | 15 November 2011 |
| | — | 5 December 2011 |
| Bangor University | 24 February 2011 | — |
| Aberystwyth University | 4 August 2010 | 3 February 2011 |
| Glamorgan University | — | — |
| University of Wales, Newport | 24 February 2011 | 6 June2011 |
| Glyndwr University | 4 May 2011 | 15 August 2010 |
| | — | 5 July 2011 |
| | — | 24 October 2011 |
| Cardiff Metropolitan University | 7 March 2011 | 30/06/2011 |
| | 8 April 2011 | — |

## Domestic Visits: Schools

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* hospitals she has visited in Wales since May 2010. [86267]

**Mrs Gillan:** Responsibility for schools and hospitals in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Government.

## Employment Agencies

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87975]

**Mr David Jones:** The Wales Office has spent the following amounts on recruitment agencies for agency staff:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| September 2011 | 3,267.74 |
| October 2011 | 2,829.60 |
| November 2011 | 1,685.18 |
| December 2011 | 3,436.50 |

## Social Fund

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) on what dates she last met the First Minister to discuss the ending of the Social Fund; [86299]

(2) on what dates she last met the First Minister to discuss the future provision of childcare support in Wales; [86300]

(3) what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with representatives of the Welsh Government to discuss preparations for severe winter weather; and what steps her Department has taken to co-ordinate its response to severe winter weather with that of the Welsh Government. [86301]

**Mrs Gillan:** Meetings are frequently held between the Government and the Welsh Government at ministerial and official levels to discuss a number of topics. In line with the practice of successive administrations, information relating to inter-administration discussions is not normally disclosed.

### Tourism

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Government on the future of the tourist industry in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [88106]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), has regular meetings with the First Minister to discuss a range of issues affecting Wales.

Wales continues to be a popular tourist destination with 9.6 million overnight visitors in 2010 bringing nearly £1.8 billion into the Welsh economy and employing almost 190,000 people.

This year's celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's diamond jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic games will provide unprecedented levels of international attention on the UK and we are working to ensure that all parts of Great Britain including Wales share the benefits of this.

### Welsh Conservative Group

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date she last met the Leader of the Welsh Conservative Group in the National Assembly for Wales in an official capacity. [86399]

**Mrs Gillan:** I hold regular meetings with the leader of the Conservative Group in the Assembly.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87354]

**Mr Paterson:** On 11 May 2010, there were 177 people working in the Northern Ireland Office. On December 2011 the figure was 170.

### Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87981]

**Mr Paterson:** During this period, my Department spent the following amounts on recruitment agencies:

| *2011* | £ |
|---|---|
| September | 2,724.67 |
| October | 5,329.27 |
| November | 5,469.88 |

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87979]

**Mr Paterson:** There were no redundancy payments made to civil servants in my Department during this period.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many temporary staff were recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [87980]

**Mr Paterson:** The Northern Ireland Office recruited one temporary member of staff during this period.

### Japan Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87602]

**Mr Paterson:** Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on departmental websites. Information for 1 July onwards will be published in due course.

## SCOTLAND

### Banks: Regulation

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the potential effect on the Scottish economy of the Government's proposals for banking regulation. [88118]

**David Mundell:** The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), meets regularly with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), to discuss a wide range of issues of relevance to the Scottish economy, including the implications of the Government's proposed reforms to the system of banking regulation in the UK.

The Government's own economic analysis has found that the proposed reforms will deliver significant net benefits to the UK economy and taxpayer. In taking forward implementation of the proposed reforms, the Government will continue to engage with banks, industry representatives and other interested groups.

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the likely effect of proposed legislation on banking on levels of employment in the financial sector in Scotland. [88119]

**David Mundell:** The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I both agree with the Government's assessment that the proposed reforms will deliver significant net benefits to UK financial stability, and improve competition in the banking sector. We expect this to support employment in Scotland's financial sector in the longer term.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88373]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office has not used the services of any debt recovery company since May 2010.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88589]

**David Mundell:** No equality impact assessments have been undertaken since May 2010.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87352]

**David Mundell:** On 11 May 2010 there were 59 people working in the Scotland Office, and on 8 December 2011 there were 59 people working in the Scotland Office.

### Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87984]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office spend on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011 was as follows:

| | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| September | 0 |
| October | 0 |
| November | 816.27 |

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87982]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All of its staff are on secondment from other public bodies, mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. Redundancy issues are a matter for these parent bodies.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many temporary staff were recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [87983]

**David Mundell:** Two temporary members of staff were appointed between September and November 2011 to cover vacancies while substantive recruitment was completed.

### Devolution

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent devolution issues the Advocate General has considered; and if he will make a statement. [88705]

**David Mundell:** The hon. Member asked a similar question on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 175W.

Since 26 October 2010, the Advocate-General for Scotland has received a total of 1,443 minutes notifying him of devolution issues of which 39 relate to civil matters.

### Employment Schemes: Young People

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Government, *(b)* Scottish colleges, *(c)* the Scottish Trades Union Congress, *(d)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, *(e)* the Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland and *(f)* CBI Scotland on the operation in Scotland of the proposed Youth Contract. [88120]

**David Mundell:** Prior to the launch of the Youth Contract representatives from the Scottish Government, Scottish colleges, the Scottish Trades Union Congress, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, the Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland and CBI Scotland have participated in the series of youth unemployment seminars which the Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), is hosting in areas of Scotland where this problem is prevalent.

The Department for Work and Pensions is in contact with the Scottish Government concerning areas of shared interest in the operation of the Youth Contract in Scotland.

### Japan Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87605]

**David Mundell:** Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on departmental websites. Information for 1 July onwards will be published in due course.

### Judicial Review

**Mr Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland for what reason his Department did not apply for costs against Derek Traynor and James Fisher following their unsuccessful application for judicial review. [87282]

**David Mundell:** Following the court's dismissal of the petitions for judicial review, the prisoners lodged appeals. The appeals were then sisted to allow the prisoners to apply for further legal aid.

Where an appeal is lodged it is usual practice to delay seeking expenses from the first instance proceedings until the outcome of the appeal is known.

In these cases, the appeals are still sisted, but remain extant.

### Railways

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with the First Minister for Scotland on the future of cross-border rail services. [88529]

**David Mundell:** There is regular discussion on cross-border rail services with the Scottish Government at ministerial and official level. I most recently discussed High Speed Rail with the Scottish Transport Minister in November 2011.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Cyber Crime: Business

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Attorney-General what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the current system for prosecuting cyber crime against businesses. [88404]

**The Attorney-General:** There is not a specific offence of cyber crime and a number of offences may involve the use of a computer or a network in the commission of or as a target of crime. The Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office have prosecutors with the skills and knowledge to conduct effective prosecutions for crimes involving information technology when required.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Attorney-General what equality impact assessments the Law Officers' Departments have carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88573]

**The Attorney-General:** HMCPSI carried out an Equality Impact Assessment in January 2011 in relation to changes to HMCPSI's management structure.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol), has conducted the following Equality Impact Assessments since May 2010:

*Government Legal Service—Qualified Lawyer Recruitment*

The purpose was to assess proposed changes to recruitment selection arrangements.

*Government Legal Service—Legal Trainee*

The purpose was to review the use of the Guaranteed Interview Scheme.

*Flexible Working*

The purpose was to consider a proposal to restrict some flexible working arrangements to staff below grade 7.

*Central guidance on Additional Paternity Leave*

The purpose was to consider any TSol-specific elements of an Equality Impact Assessment produced by Civil Service Employee Policy.

*Central guidance on Major Travel Disruption*

The purpose was to consider any TSol-specific elements of an Equality Impact Assessment produced by Civil Service Employee Policy.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not have a centrally held list of completed equality impact assessments and could not provide this information without incurring a disproportionate cost.

The Attorney-General's Office and the Serious Fraud Office have not undertaken any equality impact assessments since May 2010.

### E-mail

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Attorney-General what guidance the Law Officers' Departments provide to Ministers and officials on the use of personal e-mail accounts to conduct official business. [88534]

**The Attorney-General:** The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

### Japan Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Attorney-General whether any Ministers in the Law Officers' Departments have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87606]

**The Solicitor-General:** My wife and I were among a number of Conservative and Labour MPs invited to the Chelsea Flower Show on 24 May 2011 by Japan Tobacco International. This engagement was not undertaken in a ministerial capacity and was recorded on the Register of Members' Interests on 31 May 2011.

## HEALTH

### NHS Reorganisation

16. **Julie Hilling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of NHS reorganisation in *(a)* Bolton West constituency and *(b)* England. [88282]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The cost of the national health service modernisation is estimated to be between £1.2 billion and £1.3 billion. This will save £4.5 billion over this Parliament, and £1.5 billion per year thereafter. We do not have a local breakdown of these figures, as this will depend on local decisions.

### Early Access Scheme

17. **Mel Stride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the effect of the early access scheme on cancer patients for whom there are no alternative treatments. [88283]

23. **Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the effect of the early access scheme on cancer patients for whom there are no alternative treatments. [88289]

**Mr Lansley:** There is significant interest in early access to medicines generally and, in line with the commitment in the Life Sciences Strategy launched on 5 December 2011, we will shortly bring forward proposals for consultation on such a scheme. We look forward to hearing the views of all interested parties.

### Maternity Provision: Outer North East London

18. **Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of maternity provision in outer north-east London. [88284]

**Anne Milton:** NHS London is working closely with cluster and acute trusts to manage maternity services following the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) investigation and recommendations. The CQC continues to monitor progress. The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has asked NHS London with the local national health service, to provide him with further reports in due course on delivering improvements to quality of care.

### Whistleblowing

19. **Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage whistleblowing in the NHS. [88285]

**Paul Burstow:** We expect all national health service contracts of employment to include a right to raise concerns. The amended NHS Constitution will enhance existing legal rights and pledge employers support to whistleblowers. Where NHS and social care staff, or employers, need whistleblowing advice we are supporting them through a Government-funded free-phone whistleblowing helpline.

### Access to Drugs

20. **Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are made available to all patients in the NHS. [88286]

21. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are made available to all patients in the NHS. [88287]

**Mr Lansley:** The national health service is required to fund drugs and technologies recommended in National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals, in line with the NHS Constitution.

The NHS chief executive's report, "Innovation, Health and Wealth" sets out plans to ensure rapid and consistent implementation of NICE technology appraisal recommendations throughout the NHS.

### Excess Winter Deaths

22. **Mike Freer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure the NHS has a strategy to prevent excess winter deaths. [88288]

**Anne Milton:** In November we published the first ever Cold Weather Plan for England.

The Cold Weather Plan sets out a series of clear actions to minimise the health impact of severe winter weather, to be taken by the national health service, social care and other public agencies and advice for people who interact with those most at risk from cold weather. It is supported by the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund of £30 million to reduce death and morbidity due to cold housing this winter.

### Patient Data

24. **Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reach agreement with the NHS on the governance arrangements for use of patient data for research purposes in all constituent parts of the UK. [88290]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government's plans and timetable for establishment of the Clinical Practice Research Datalink were published in October 2011. Arrangements for collaboration between the home countries are planned to commence in August 2012 and be concluded as soon as practicable.

### A and E Departments

**Dr Phillip Lee:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals do not have a type one (major) accident and emergency department; and which NHS hospitals have *(a)* gained and *(b)* lost such a department since 1997. [87071]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not held centrally.

The most relevant data relate to the number of type 1 departments per national health service trust, and is only available from quarter 2 of 2003-04.

A copy of the earliest and most recently available data has been placed in the Library.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the pricing of alcohol and its effect on health. [88157]

**Anne Milton:** Health Ministers have not discussed the pricing of alcohol with their Scottish Government counterparts since May 2010. There are regular contacts between officials on all current policy issues.

The Home Office has lead responsibility within the United Kingdom Government for alcohol pricing issues. The Home Office published the Government's review of alcohol pricing in January 2011.

### Brain Cancer

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on funding for brain cancer research in each year since 2006. [87723]

**Paul Burstow:** Expenditure by the Department on brain cancer research through research programmes, research centres and units, and research training awards is shown in the following table:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 0.1 |
| 2007-08 | 0.1 |
| 2008-09 | 0.1 |
| 2009-10 | 0.3 |
| 2010-11 | 0.9 |

In addition, the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network (CRN) is currently hosting 17 trials and other well-designed studies in cancers of the brain and nervous system that are in set-up or recruiting patients. Details can be found on the United Kingdom CRN portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Data for spend on brain cancer research through the CRN cannot be disaggregated from total CRN expenditure.

### Care Quality Commission: Recruitment

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons external applicants are unable to apply for jobs with the Care Quality Commission. [88760]

**Mr Simon Burns:** External applicants are able to apply for jobs with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) subject to the Government's efficiency controls. The CQC, like other public sector organisations, is subject to the recruitment freeze on external recruitment announced by the Government on 25 May 2010. External recruitment is only permissible by exception where a post is frontline or business critical and has not been filled from the "internal recruitment pool" comprising the Department's arm's length bodies, the Department, strategic health authorities and primary care trusts.

### Carers: Finance

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he has allocated to investment in carers services within the baseline allocations for primary care trusts in 2012-13; and how much he plans to allocate in *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* 2014-15. [87960]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Primary care trust (PCT) allocations for 2012-13 were announced on 14 December. These allocations provide PCTs with £91.6 billion to spend on the local front-line services that matter most—an increase of £2.5 billion, or 2.8%. This means that despite the financial situation, we have ensured that all PCTs receive a reasonable uplift.

The spending review made available funding of £400 million between 2011 and 2015, to support the provision of breaks for carers, reflecting a priority of the Coalition Agreement. The funding is currently included in PCT allocations, and we recommend that PCTs pool budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks, with spending plans made available to local carers' organisations. However, individual PCT revenue allocations are not broken down by service or policy area. It is for PCTs to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

This will be the last round of allocations made to PCTs, as subject to the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board would take over responsibility for the allocation of resources from the Department for 2013-14 onwards. Also from 2013-14, the Department will allocate a ring-fenced public health grant to local authorities.

### Computer Sciences Corporation

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department has awarded to the Computer Sciences Corporation since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [87703]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has not awarded any contracts to the Computer Sciences Corporation since May 2010.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services the Computer Sciences Corporation *(a)* provides to the NHS and *(b)* will provide to the NHS up to the end of 2013. [87704]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) is the local service provider for the delivery of the North Midlands and East of England programme for Information Technology. The scope of the contract is to implement a patient centric electronic patient record (NHS Care Records Service) in national health service trusts across the region. In providing this, CSC is offering a number of strategic and interim solutions along with key services that include the planning, design, development, testing, implementation and ongoing support for the duration of the contract. The Department and Cabinet

Office are however currently in discussions with CSC over the contract and its associated costs. These discussions have not yet concluded.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88367]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Since May 2010, the Department has used the debt recovery services of CCI Legal Ltd on two occasions, via NHS Shared Business Services.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013. [88729]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Numbers of apprentices employed, or expected to be employed, by departmental arm's length bodies (ALBs) are shown in the following table.

| *ALB* | *Number of apprentices employed between April 2010 and March 2011* | *Number of apprentices employed between April and December 2011* | *Number of apprenticeships expected to be sponsored between January and March 2012* | *Number of apprenticeships expected to be sponsored between April and March 2013* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Health Protection Agency | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NHS Blood and Transplant | 114 | 61 | 20 | 120 |

The Care Quality Commission workforce plans include looking into the possible introduction of modern apprenticeship and graduate training schemes. The Health and Social Care Information Centre are examining how they might integrate them into their planning towards the end of 2012.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87994]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has paid a total of £524,929 to civil servants as redundancy payments between September and November 2011. We are unable to break this down into individual months without the risk of identifying individuals.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many temporary staff were recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [87995]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Between 1 September and 30 November 2011 there were 17.3 full-time equivalent temporary civil servants recruited to the Department and 97.9 full-time equivalent temporary workers (agency staff and contractors) were engaged from external suppliers. This information is contained in the following table.

*Temporary staff recruited into the Department of Health 1 September to 30 November2011*

| *Status* | *Total number* |
|---|---|
| Temporary civil servants | 17.3 |
| Temporary workers (agency staff and contractors) | 97.9 |
| Total | 115.2 |

### Disability: Children

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many statemented deafblind or multi-sensory impaired children have been provided with intervention support in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [88386]

**Sarah Teather:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Health.

The school census collects information on pupils with different types of special educational need. It includes a category for "multi-sensory impairment", but not a separate category for "deafblind".

In January 2011, the school census showed that there were 510 pupils with multi-sensory impairment as their primary type of need who were receiving support through a statement of special educational needs.

Information on the specific type of support provided, including intervenor support is not held centrally.

### Doctors: Retirement

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average retirement age was of *(a)* a hospital consultant and *(b)* a GP in the latest period for which figures are available. [88065]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Data from the Government Actuaries Department on the average retirement age of general practitioners is calculated at 62 (covering the period 2004 to 2008).

Data for hospital consultants are not available separately.

### Drugs: Licensing

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in respect of applications to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for a licence for the importation of medicines from other EU member states to the UK, what the average interval was between the application and the granting of a licence in each of the last 12 months. [88377]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The gross time in months for approval of parallel import licence applications is shown in the following table. Gross time includes waiting time for information from other member states and from the applicants responding to questions from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency:

| *Month of approval* | *Median time for approval (months)* |
|---|---|
| *2010* | |
| December | 6.4 |
| *2011* | |
| January | 8.0 |
| February | 6.5 |
| March | 6.7 |
| April | 9.0 |
| May | 9.4 |
| June | 9.3 |
| July | 8.1 |
| August | 8.3 |
| September | 9.0 |
| October | 5.7 |
| November | 5.6 |

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what medicines subject to licensing by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency are medicines of which there is currently a shortage in the UK market. [88653]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Medicines shortages can occur at short notice, for a number of reasons, including manufacturing or regulatory problems. At any one time the Department of Health may be aware of a number of shortages, and we do not hold a list of such drugs as any such list, if compiled, might not be accurate or complete.

The Department also receives reports of medicines subject to supply problems that may be attributed to parallel exports. A list of products where there are known problems with supply is published on the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee's website at:

www.psnc.org.uk/pages/problem_medicines_list.html

### Dystonia

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the funding policies are for each of the 10 specialised commissioning groups in relation to deep brain stimulation for severe dystonia; [88642]

(2) what account specialised commissioning groups take of *(a)* clinical severity and *(b)* costs and benefits when deciding whether to fund treatments. [88643]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This is primarily a matter for the local national health service.

Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) are accountable to their primary care trusts (PCTs) on all matters of governance including their financial concerns. SCGs will consider the cost and clinical effectiveness, the potential health gain and the opportunity costs and benefits of any proposal. As joint committees of PCTs they will need to keep in mind the duty not to exceed spending limits.

### Electro-convulsive Therapy

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of times that electro-convulsive therapy has been administered in NHS facilities in each of the last three years. [87385]

**Paul Burstow:** The information requested is presented in the following table:

| | *Total procedures/interventions* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 7,026 |
| 2009-10 | 7,954 |
| 2010-11 | 6,787 |

*Source:*
The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

This information is from the national health service (NHS) Information Centre's HESonline website, which includes activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Further breakdowns of the data on electro-convulsive therapy procedures and interventions by age and gender are available at:

www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=210

### General Practitioners

**Dr Phillip Lee:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to the public purse of a GP consultation has been since 1997 in *(a)* walk-in centres and *(b)* all other GP practices. [87072]

**Mr Simon Burns:** No central data are held on the average cost of a consultation at a national health service walk-in centre.

Figures relating to average consultation costs in general practice are set out in the following table.

*General practitioner (GP) average surgery consultation costs*

| | *Former GP contract to 2003-04* | | | | | | | *New GP contract from April 2004* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Qresearch estimated volume of consultations (Million) | 220.7 | 219.9 | 218.9 | 225.3 | 239.0 | 246.2 | 259.4 | 264.9 | 283.2 | 291.5 | 291.9 | 303.9 |

*General practitioner (GP) average surgery consultation costs*

| | *Former GP contract to 2003-04* | | | | | | | *New GP contract from April 2004* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| GP contract total spend net of dispensing (£ billion) | 3,033 | 3,158 | 3,420 | 3,623 | 3,734 | 4,060 | 4,623 | 6,103 | 6,851 | 6,943 | 7,051 | 7,145 |
| Average cost per consultation (£) | 13.74 | 14.36 | 15.62 | 16.08 | 15.62 | 16.49 | 17.82 | 23.04 | 24.19 | 23.82 | 24.16 | 23.51 |

*Sources:*

Former GP contract 1997-98 to 2003-04 spend taken from the 2005 departmental report, Chapter 7 Activity, Performance and Efficiency—table figure 7.3 Key Statistics on General and Personal Medical Services (GPMS) England discretionary and non-discretionary final audited spend 2004-05 to 2008-09 new GP contract spend taken from final audited FIMS(FHS)4 nGMS contract spend as reported by all primary care trusts in England net of dispensing doctor spend.

All consultation figures are taken from Qresearch-Trends in Consultation Rates in General practice 1995 to 2009—table 12 by financial year.

### Health Services: North East

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effect on recruitment and retention of NHS staff in the North East region of the Government's forthcoming review of regional pay in the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [88379]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), asked pay review bodies to look at local job markets, the difference between public and private sector salaries, how this is implemented on a geographic basis and the need to ensure that public sector organisations are able to recruit, retain and motivate the right numbers of staff with the right skills to deliver and help improve public services.

It would be premature to make any statement prior to the NHS Pay Review Body (NHS PRB) and Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB), making their own recommendations to Government in July 2012.

The Department will, as part of its evidence to the NHS PRB and SSRB, consider carefully the impact of recruitment and retention of market facing pay right across England.

### Health Visitors: North West

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual number of health visitor training commissions in the North West Strategic Health Authority was in 2011-12; what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the North West Strategic Health Authority meets its target for health visitor training commissions by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [88354]

**Anne Milton:** The Health Visitor Implementation Plan, published in February 2011, set out action to expand and strengthen health visiting services. The plan includes a commitment to employ an extra 4,200 health visitors (against a May 2010 baseline of 8,092). Also in February, the Department wrote to strategic health authorities setting out indicative growth trajectories for 2011-12 training commissions. The indicative number of commissions for the north-west region in 2011-12 is 206.

Both a copy of the plan and letter have been placed in the Library.

Information on the actual number of health visitor training commissions in 2011-12 can be obtained from NHS North of England.

### Herbal Medicine

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of herbal medicinal products on sale in the UK which exceed the daily dose approved for traditional herbal medicinal products; and if he will make a statement; [88773]

(2) what steps the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has taken in respect of black cohosh products that exceed the daily dose approved for traditional herbal medicinal products in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [88795]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The classification of products as medicines is made on a case-by-case basis by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Companies are not required to notify the MHRA that they are placing a product on the market or to have it pre-vetted, so the MHRA does not hold information on how many herbal products are on the market at higher strengths than registered herbal medicines. The MHRA has taken regulatory action against one black cohosh product and the status of a further 15 products is currently under investigation. Any which are in breach of legislation will be subject to regulatory action. The MHRA is currently considering how effective, proportionate enforcement action can best ensure that the intended benefits of the legislation for consumers and for companies compliant with the legislation are achieved.

### Injuries: Dogs

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to hospital as a result of being bitten by a dog in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [87903]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following table shows a count of finished admission episodes (FAEs)[1] with a cause code[2] of bitten or struck by dog for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 in England only. Data for Wales are not held as this is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly.

*Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| *England* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 5,221 |
| 2009-10 | 5,837 |

*Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| *England* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 6,005 |

[1] *Finished admission episodes*
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
[2] *Cause code*
A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES).
Cause code used: W54: Bitten or struck by dog.
*Notes:*
1. *Assessing growth through time*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
2. *Data quality*
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

## Japan Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87619]

**Anne Milton:** No Minister or special adviser has received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010.

Details of all hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website. Data from 1 January 2010 up to the end of June 2011 can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

## Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Redundancy

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many redundancies have been announced in the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in each of the last 12 months; and how many people have been made redundant; [88378]

(2) whether his Department imposes a limit on the number of staff employed at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. [88654]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There are no limits placed on the amount of staff employed at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

The MHRA has made a number of staff redundant during the period 1 December 2010 to 30 November 2011, all as a result of the requirements of the Government efficiency programme. During this period a total of 27 staff were given notice of redundancy and 16 of those have left as a result of redundancy. The remaining 11 members of staff are due to leave between 1 December 2011 and mid 2012. These are listed as follows:

| | *Date of leaving* |
|---|---|
| December 2010 | 0 |
| January 2011 | 0 |
| February 2011 | 0 |
| March 2011 | 0 |
| April 2011 | 0 |
| May 2011 | 0 |
| June 2011 | 0 |
| July 2011 | 1 |
| August 2011 | 4 |
| September 2011 | 3 |
| October 2011 | 7 |
| November 2011 | 1 |
| Total | 16 |
| | |
| December 2011 | 7 |
| January 2012 | 1 |
| February 2012 | 0 |
| March 2012 | 0 |
| April 2012 | 2 |
| May 2012 | 0 |
| June 2012 | 0 |
| July 2012 | 1 |
| Total | 11 |

## Mental Health Services

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in each age group under 25 years of age who have received mental health treatment in the last 10 years. [87927]

**Paul Burstow:** The majority of mental health treatment is given in primary care settings, for example, treatment for depression. This information is not routinely collected from primary care settings.

Accordingly, only information on treatment in secondary care can be provided. The Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS) covers secondary mental health services for adults arid a small group of patients under 16-years-old who have accessed adult services.

The following tables, from the "Mental Health Bulletin MHMDS annual returns, 2011", present the number of adults using national health service funded secondary mental health services by treatment, gender, and age for each of the years for which figures are available:

*Number of people using adult NHS funded secondary mental health services by gender and five year age band, 2010-11*

| | *Admitted* | *Non-admitted* | *No care*[1] | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total number of people | 106,719 | 1,094,138 | 86,873 | 1,287,730 |
| Male | 56,058 | 479,606 | 37,269 | 572,933 |
| Under 15 | 10 | 2,499 | 222 | 2,731 |

*Number of people using adult NHS funded secondary mental health services by gender and five year age band, 2010-11*

| | *Admitted* | *Non-admitted* | *No care*[1] | *Total* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|---:|
| 15 to 19 | 1,751 | 20,283 | 2,414 | 24,448 |
| 20 to 24 | 4,863 | 33,749 | 3,589 | 42,201 |
| | | | | |
| Female | 50,625 | 614,159 | 49,542 | 714,326 |
| Under 15 | 19 | 1,787 | 179 | 1,985 |
| 15 to 19 | 1,651 | 27,287 | 3,336 | 32,274 |
| 20 to 24 | 3,169 | 41,000 | 5,018 | 49,187 |

[1] 'No care' refers to an open spell of care but there was no evidence of contact with services. This may include inappropriate referrals, people who did not attend for appointments and people whose treatment is yet to start.

*Source:*

Health and Social Care Information Centre MHMDS) 2010-11 annual returns

*Number of people using mental health services by gender and age, 2006-07 to 2010-11*

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|---:|---:|
| Total | 1,151,260 | 1,190,542 | 1,222,365 | 1,270,731 | 1,285,594 |
| | | | | | |
| Male | 517,373 | 528,372 | 542,835 | 562,669 | 571,567 |
| Under 16 | 16,801 | 12,579 | 7,644 | 4,331 | 3,697 |
| 16 to 17 | 7,730 | 7,684 | 8,604 | 7,856 | 8,038 |
| 18 to 35 | 152,222 | 152,584 | 156,395 | 159,578 | 159,887 |
| | | | | | |
| Female | 631,378 | 659,245 | 677,102 | 706,381 | 713,571 |
| Under 16 | 11,517 | 9,129 | 6,010 | 3,772 | 3,452 |
| 16 to 17 | 9,718 | 10,597 | 11,745 | 10,979 | 11,380 |
| 18 to 35 | 160,465 | 166,100 | 170,394 | 177,395 | 177,483 |

*Source:*

Health and Social Care Information Centre MHMDS 2006-07 to 2010-11 annual returns

## Muscular Dystrophy

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to *(a)* provide integrated care processes and *(b)* establish managed clinical networks for neuromuscular conditions; and if he will make a statement. [87237]

**Paul Burstow:** During 2010-11, the 10 regional specialised commissioning groups (SCGs) and the national specialised commissioning team (NSCT) collaborated to produce a detailed work plan for neuromuscular services.

This neuromuscular workstream is led by East of England SCG, working with the individual SCG/NSCT neuromuscular leads. In July, a more formal group was established and the existing work plan was enlarged to include communications and engagement.

A workshop to which patients, carers and support organisations were invited was held in December 2011. At this workshop the SCGs presented draft service specifications for neuromuscular services and for wheelchair services. These service specifications, which set out the standards of service that all neuromuscular patients in England should expect to receive, will be consulted on and then finalised by April 2012, when the SCGs will start to implement them.

At this workshop it was also announced that a national lead for specialist neuromuscular care would be appointed.

## Neurology

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the report by the National Audit Office on Services for people with neurological conditions, HC 1586, what steps he plans to take to ensure that people with neurological conditions are supported in the community and avoid unnecessary hospital stays. [88563]

**Paul Burstow:** We welcome the National Audit Office report on services for people with neurological conditions. The report is now being studied carefully and the Government note the report's recommendations. We will respond to the report at the Public Accounts Committee hearing on 18 January 2012.

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines in the convergence of commissioning policies for specialised neurosurgery across England. [88638]

**Paul Burstow:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published a number of clinical guidelines which have impacted on the delivery of specialised neurosurgery including those for head injury, epilepsy, back pain, metastatic spinal cord compression, Parkinson's Disease, stroke and the Improving Outcomes Guidance for Central Nervous System tumours. Each of these include standards of care which will be included in a national commissioning specification for specialised neurosurgery from April 2013. The performance against these standards will be assessed using service specific quality measures.

## NHS

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of early implementer *(a)* health and wellbeing boards and *(b)* local healthwatch organisations in encouraging (i) children and young people and (ii) people with mental health problems to contribute to shaping local NHS services. [87911]

**Paul Burstow:** Health and wellbeing boards will increase the influence of local people in shaping services, so that local services can better meet local needs. They will have a duty to involve local people in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and joint health and wellbeing strategy.

HealthWatch organisations must be inclusive and fully representative of all those in the communities they serve, including the interests of children and young people and those with mental health problems.

It is for health and wellbeing boards and HealthWatch organisations to establish their own local arrangements to meet these expectations and to engage effectively with local people. We are working with early implementer health and wellbeing boards through a National Learning Network, and with HealthWatch pathfinders, to support them as they establish how best to do this.

### NHS: Drugs

**Mr Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are made available to all patients in the NHS. [88277]

**Mr Lansley:** The national health service is required to fund drugs and technologies recommended in National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals, in line with the NHS Constitution.

The NHS chief executive's report, "Innovation, Health and Wealth" sets out plans to ensure rapid and consistent implementation of NICE technology appraisal recommendations throughout the NHS.

### NHS: ICT

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that NHS trusts procure third generation Picture Archiving and Communications Systems; [88111]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of the *(a)* second and *(b)* third generation Picture Archiving and Communications Systems. [88112]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Re-procurement of Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS), Radiology Information System (RIS) and imaging archives for when the original Local Service Provider (LSP) contracts expire are the responsibility of the local national health service trusts, in line with the Government's localisation agenda. The Department is providing support to trusts as they enter this process including provision of a set of NHS defined core requirements that trusts can use to develop their own locally tailored requirements. These requirements combine the best features of the current systems with innovative options that were not available when the LSP contracts were originally let, and will enable trusts to procure more innovative and updated technology according to local needs.

The re-procurement decisions for PACS, RIS and image archives are made by the local NHS trusts so a national estimate of costs has not been made.

### NHS: Pensions

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in pension payments from the NHS pension scheme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [87956]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following figures are pension payments made to pensioners, widows and dependants.

| | *£ billion* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 4.173 |
| 2009-10 | 4.567 |
| 2010-11 | 4.852 |

The data have been provided by the NHS Pensions Agency and the totals do not include lump sum payments.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in contributions to the NHS Pension Scheme by NHS *(a)* employees and *(b)* employers in 2008-09. [88077]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Contributions made to the NHS pension scheme in 2008-09 by employees were £2.547 billion and employer contributions were £5,007 billion.

These data were provided by the NHS Pensions Agency.

### NHS: Redundancy Pay

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost of redundancy payments to NHS staff was in 2011. [87907]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information is not collected in the format requested. Information from the Audited NHS (England) Summarised Accounts for the financial year 2010-11 shows that the total resource cost of staff exit packages for strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and national health service trusts in the 2010-11 financial year was £219.6 million. This figure includes £87.7 million for compulsory redundancies and £131.9 million for other departures. The figure for other departures includes early retirements (excluding those because of ill-health). It is not possible to separately identify this cost, or the cost of voluntary redundancies from the data collected.

The disclosure in the accounts reports the number and value of exit packages taken by staff leaving in the year. The expense associated with these departures may have been recognised in part or in full in a previous period.

The Department does not collect data from NHS foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data provided are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.

### Out of Area Treatment: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients ordinarily resident in Scotland have had elective surgery in hospitals in England in each of the last five years. [88158]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is shown in the following table:

*Number of finished admission episodes where the patient is resident in Scotland and treated by the national health service (in England) for elective surgery, 2006-07 to 2010-11*

| | *Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Current strategic health authority of residence* | *2010-11* | *2009-10* | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
| Scotland | 3,580 | 3,102 | 2,927 | 2,750 | 2,717 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

### Pain: Clinics

**Mrs Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer 2008, what steps he is taking to increase the availability of specialist pain clinics in the NHS. [87952]

**Paul Burstow:** We are putting front-line clinicians in charge of the commissioning of the services needed for their local populations, including specialist pain management services. Clinical guidance to support commissioners is already available from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and from professional organisations, and a series of clinical pathways for pain management is being developed by the British Pain Society. We have also asked NICE, subject to further scoping work, to develop one or more Quality Standards for pain management which will set out the standards of care to which all national health service organisations should aspire. The recently published Atlas of Variation, drawing on information from the National Pain Audit, will give commissioners an indication of where pain management services may in particular need to be improved.

### Radiotherapy

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 312W, on radiotherapy, what steps he plans to take to ensure that primary care trusts can only use funding to expand radiotherapy capacity in 2012-13 for that purpose; [87718]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 637W, on radiotherapy, if the recommendations made in the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group report, Radiotherapy: developing a world-class service for England, are the benchmark for providing patients with appropriate access to radiotherapy treatment; [87737]

(3) if he will impose penalties on commissioners who do not develop plans which ensure that local populations have appropriate access to radiotherapy treatment. [87738]

**Paul Burstow:** Additional funding for the expansion of radiotherapy capacity, as well as existing funding for radiotherapy, is included in overall primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations which amount to around £85 billion nationally.

The Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), does not mandate how much PCTs are to spend on particular services within these overall allocations. PCTs have local discretion to decide how to use their overall allocation to commission services, including radiotherapy services, to meet the health care needs of their local populations. For the future, the national health service will be held to account for the delivery of improved outcomes and, in order to achieve them, commissioners will need to ensure that patients have access to radiotherapy where appropriate. The recommendations in the report 'Radiotherapy: developing a world-class service for England' by the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group (NRAG), published in May 2007, remain relevant to ensuring that patients have appropriate access to radiotherapy treatment. The recommendations included collecting data nationally so that the public, the NHS and the Department can see radiotherapy activity. The Radiotherapy Dataset (RTDS) is now fully implemented and 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', published earlier this year, made the commitment to undertake a detailed analysis of the RTDS to ensure that metrics in the NRAG report remain meaningful and current.

The National Radiotherapy Implementation Group supported by the National Cancer Action Team has worked with cancer networks and radiotherapy centres to help them plan to meet the capacity and activity recommendations in the NRAG report of 2007.

The Health and Social Care Bill, subject to parliamentary approval, proposes that commissioning for specialised services at both a regional and national level will be in future directly commissioned by the NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB), from April 2013. No decisions have yet been taken on which services will be directly commissioned by the NHSCB from April 2013.

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 587W, on radiotherapy, what his policy is on penalties for commissioners who do not follow the guidance issued by the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group on providing access to stereotactic radiotherapy body treatment to cancer patients; [87719]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 127W, on radiotherapy, if he will publish the evidential basis for his statement that stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment is available to NHS patients in a quarter of all radiotherapy centres in England. [87739]

**Paul Burstow:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not issued any guidance on the use Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (now known as Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy, SABR). Any funding decisions in the absence of NICE guidance should be made by local primary care trusts based on an assessment of the available evidence and taking account of individual circumstances. The National Radiotherapy Implementation Group report provides useful information in the absence of NICE guidance. There are no penalties for commissioners who do not follow this type of guidance.

The Department does not monitor the availability of this treatment. However, the National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) undertook an informal survey of radiotherapy centres at the end of 2010. This survey concluded that SABR was available in a quarter of all centres. NCAT estimates that there are 20 or more machines capable of delivering SABR and that for Stereotactic Radiosurgery (mainly for cranial lesions) availability is greater.

### Stem Cells

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the future use of stem cells. [87742]

**Anne Milton:** The Department keeps developments in stem cell science under routine review in order to assess the potential for improved health care treatments.

Following a review of current national health service stem cell transplant services the report "Future of Unrelated Donor Stem Cell Transplantation in the UK" was published in December 2010. A copy has already been placed in the Library. £4 million was made available for improving United Kingdom stem cell services in this financial year. Also, in July 2011, we published, with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, a document entitled "Taking Stock of Regenerative Medicine in the United Kingdom", which included consideration of future stem cell therapies. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Discussions have taken place between the Department and others to agree an appropriate response to the recent European Court of Justice ruling on patenting human embryonic stem cells.

### Sugar

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had on the merits of introducing a responsibility deal relating to drinks with added sugar or artificial sweeteners. [87701]

**Anne Milton:** Ministers have held no discussions on the merits of introducing a responsibility deal relating to drinks with added sugar or artificial sweeteners. However, Ministers have held discussions through the High Level Steering Group of the Public Health Responsibility Deal Food Network on developing a calorie reduction pledge, which could encompass relevant action on such drinks.

### Telemedicine: Care Homes

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of likely savings from using telemedicine technologies in care homes. [87944]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department has not made any formal assessment of likely savings that might result from using telemedicine technologies in care homes.

Initial headline findings from the Whole System Demonstrator programme demonstrate that, in the national health service, appropriate use of telehealth can lead to significant reductions in mortality and hospital admissions, leading to efficiency gains. The Whole System Demonstrator programme was set up by the Department to provide an evaluated evidence base on the benefits of telehealth and telecare.

We consider that telemedicine also has the potential to offer benefits in care home settings.

### Treatment Centres: Runcorn

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to make a decision on the future use of the Cheshire and Merseyside Treatment Centre in Runcorn. [88531]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Decisions regarding the future use of individual independent sector treatment centres are taken by national health service bodies locally in the context of their overall plans for commissioning local services.

A period of public consultation has recently ended. NHS Halton and St Helens is exploring options for the future utilisation of the building.

### Tuberculosis: Drugs

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the implementation of the action plan on multi-drug resistant and extremely drug resistant tuberculosis. [88332]

**Anne Milton:** Although we have had no recent discussions with other European Ministers on the World Health Organization's (WHO) action plan, the European Union's Strategic Action Plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance published in November 2011 reinforces international commitment to implementing WHO's action plan. The Department is actively working with the EU to take forward the range of recommendations in their Strategic Action Plan.

### University College Hospital

**Mr Cash:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* building and *(b)* demolishing the hybrid operating theatre at University College Hospital; what the cost to the public purse was of transferring functions for vascular procedures of the hybrid operating theatre at University College Hospital to the Royal Free Hospital; and what the cost was of employment of consultants as a result of transfer of functions. [87639]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This is a matter for the chair of University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to the Foundation Trust Chairman, Richard Murley, informing him of the hon. Member's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Coal Fired Power Stations: Closures

**Mr Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which coal-fired power stations will close under the EU Large Combustion Plant Directive; and how many running hours remain for each plant. [87886]

**Charles Hendry:** Decisions on operation and closure of coal-fired power stations under the EU Large Combustion Plant Directive are a commercial matter for generators.

The following table shows the coal-fired stations that will close under the EU Large Combustion Plant Directive, along with the running hours remaining for each plant, as at the end of October 2011.

| *Plant* | *Hours remaining (as at end October 2011)* |
|---|---|
| Cockenzie Units 1 and 2 | 3,801 |
| Cockenzie Units 3 and 4 | 4,769 |
| Didcot A | 9,680 |
| Ferrybridge (1 and 2) | 9,416 |
| Ironbridge | 11,874 |
| Kingsnorth | 5,777 |
| Tilbury (7 and 8) | 7,834. |
| Tilbury (9 and 10) | 7,446 |
| Total | 60,597 |

### Coal: Concessions

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he has any plans to buy out the national concessionary fuel entitlements of current recipients. [87905]

**Gregory Barker:** At present there are no current plans to change the existing arrangements of the fuel obligations under the national concessionary fuel scheme (NCFS).

The total number of beneficiaries currently in receipt of entitlements under the NCFS is c78,000, of which over 83% receive cash in lieu payments. Under the terms of the scheme, beneficiaries can move from solid fuel to cash entitlements at any time.

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the national concessionary fuel allowance scheme to end. [87906]

**Gregory Barker:** Based on the latest actuarial modelling, the national concessionary fuel scheme will exist for up to further 50 years, i.e. until around 2065.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013. [88727]

**Gregory Barker:** April 2010 to March 2011 DECC had 14 staff undertaking an apprenticeship programme. DECC's non-departmental bodies have had none.

Between April and December 2011 we have had one new apprenticeship start (with the above continuing). DECC's non-departmental bodies have had none.

All future apprenticeships will be based on suitable vacancies arising within the Department. DECC's non-departmental bodies have none currently planned.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88728]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC is responsible for four executive non-departmental public bodies:

The Civil Nuclear Police Authority
The Coal Authority
The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
The Committee on Climate Change

Training in those organisations, including any apprenticeships, is a matter for their management. In each of these NDPBs their remit, very small size or highly specialist nature make it unlikely that they would be suitable for apprenticeships and none of these bodies has therefore allocated specific funding to sponsor internal apprenticeships. Indirectly the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority funds apprenticeship schemes (as it does other staff costs) run by the privately owned site licence companies, which run and decommission the 19 civil public nuclear legacy sites on behalf of the NDA under contract.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88368]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC has not used services of any debt recovery company since May 2010.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88580]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department has carried out 10 full equality impact assessments since May 2010. During that time, the Department has also carried out 21 initial screenings exercises assessing the impact of equality on its policies and procedures.

A full list of those decisions can be found in the table as follows

| *Title and link to URL* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| *GB-wide smart meter roll out for the domestic sector*<br>Consultation | 27 July 2010 |

| *Title and link to URL* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/smart-meter-imp-prospectus/1485-impact-assessment-smart-metering-implementation-p.pdf | |
| *Warm Home Discount Scheme (previously Social Price Support)*<br>Consultation<br>http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/warm-home-discount/957-ia-warm-home-discount-scheme.pdf | 2 December 2010 |
| *Amendments to the Eligibility Criteria for Warm Front*<br>Consultation<br>http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/warm-front-eligibility/1030-ia-warm-front-eligibility.pdf | 15 December 2010 |
| *EU Third Package: Articles concerning provision of consumer information*<br>Final<br>http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath=Consultations/eu-third-package/1160-ia-third-packageconsumer-info.pdf&filetype=4&minwidth=true | 14 January 2011 |
| *EU Third Package: Provision of third-party access to licence exempt electricity and gas networks*<br>Final<br>http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath=Consultations/eu-third-package/1155-ia-third-party-access-licence-exemptions.pdf&filetype=4&minwidth=true | 14 January 2011 |
| *Warm Home Discount Scheme (previously Social Price Support)*<br>Final<br>http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/warm-home-discount/1308-warm-home-disc-impact-assessment.pdf | 28 February 2011 |
| *Amendments to the Eligibility Criteria for Warm Front*<br>Final<br>http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/warm-front-eligibility/1442-ia-warm-front-eligibility.pdf | 10 March 2011 |
| *Smart meter rollout for the domestic sector (GB)*<br>Final<br>http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/smart-meter-imp-prospectus/1485-impact-assessment-smart-metering-implementation-p.pdf | 30 March 2011 |
| *Smart meter rollout for the domestic sector (GB)*<br>Consultation<br>http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/smart-metering-imp-prog/2549-smart-meter-rollout-domestic-ia-180811.pdf | 18 August 2011 |
| *Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation*<br>http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/green-deal/3603-green-deal-eco-ia.pdf | 23 November 2011 |
| Initial Screening Equality Impact Assessment for section 37 electric lines (Electricity Act 1989), necessary wayleaves associated with section 37 retention and development under paragraph 6 of Schedule 4 (Electricity Act1989) or for applications for confirmation of compulsory purchase orders relating to land or rights over land under Schedule 3 (Electricity Act 1989) | 22 September 2011 |
| Equality Impact Assessment for Climate Change Agreements (CCAs): Initial Screening | 21 September 2011 |
| Initial Screening Equality Impact Assessment for section 36 (Electricity Act 1989) biomass fuelled electricity generating stations | 8 July 2011 |
| Initial Screening Equality Impact Assessment for a section 36 (Electricity Act 1989) application for a Dry Fuel Storage facility at Sizewell B nuclear power station | 30 June 2011 |

| *Title and link to URL* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| Initial Screening Equality Impact Assessment for Vocational Qualifications Policy | 30 June 2011 |
| Restructuring process and outcomes (initial screening) | 15 August 2011 |
| Disabled lift access at 3WHP staff entrance (initial screening) | 11 April 2011 |
| Lighting replacement in communal areas at 3WHP. (initial screening) | 11 April 2011 |
| Move to 55 Whitehall (initial screening) moving to a full EqIA | 7 July 2011 |
| 3 Whitehall Place re-stack (initial screening) | 23 September 2011 |
| Assessment for The Annual Pay Strategy (initial screening) | 11 August 2011 |
| Proposals on the future of Climate Change Agreements | 7 July 2011 |
| Offshore carbon dioxide storage licensing regime | 27 August 2010 |
| Energy National Policy Statements | 18 October 2010 |
| CERT—The role of appliances and consumer electronics in CERT | 16 November 2010 |
| Energy Bill 2010-11: Green Deal Impact Assessment | 9 December 2010 |
| Energy Bill 2010-11: Continental Shelf | 16 May 2011 |
| Impact Assessment of Fourth Carbon Budget Level | 16 May 2011 |
| Energy National Policy Statements | 23 June 2011 |
| Extending the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target to December 2012 | 9 December 2010 |

## Energy

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the total cost of levy-funded energy policies in 2010-11 prices between April 2002 and the latest available date; and what estimate he has made of the VAT paid to the Exchequer from such levies. [87511]

**Gregory Barker:** Levy-funded policies, such as the renewables obligation (RO), feed-in tariffs (FITs), warm home discount (WHD), energy efficiency commitment (EEC), carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving programme (CESP), place various obligations on energy suppliers in order to drive energy efficiency, renewable energy and to provide assistance with energy costs for vulnerable customers. It is expected that energy companies will pass the cost of these obligations onto their various energy customers through their energy bills. To help ensure that policies achieve their objectives cost effectively and affordably the Government introduced a framework to control levy funded spending by DECC at Budget 2011. This framework, covering FITs, RO and WHD forms part of the Government's public spending framework which Treasury has responsibility for.

The estimated total gross cost (excluding the benefits) of each policy between April 2002 and the latest available data are shown in the following table.

| *Policy* | *Time period considered* | *Estimated gross cost to date, excluding benefits of policies (£ billion, real 2010-11 prices)* |
|---|---|---|
| Energy efficiency commitment (EEC) I | April 2002-March2005 | [1]0.5 |
| Energy efficiency commitment (EEC) II | April 2005-March 2008 | 1.0 |
| Carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) | April 2008-March 2011 | [2]3.3 |
| Carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) extension[7] | April 2011-November 2011 | 0.7 |
| Community Energy Saving programme (CESP)[7] | September 2009-November 2011 | [3]0.2 |
| Warm home discount (WHD)[7] | April 2011-March 2012 | [4]0.24 |
| Feed-in tariffs (FITs)[7] | April 2010-September 2011 | [5]0.05 |

| *Policy* | *Time period considered* | *Estimated gross cost to date, excluding benefits of policies (£ billion, real 2010-11 prices)* |
|---|---|---|
| Renewables obligation (RO)[7] | April 2002-March2011 | [6]7.3 |

[1] Calculations of EEC I, EEC II, are based on an evaluation of costs by Eoin Lees Energy. Available at:
http://eoinleesenergy.com/

[2] Calculations of CERT and CERT extension are based on impact assessments published by DECC.

[3] Calculations of CESP are based on an impact assessment published by DECC. See:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/CESP/1_20090710121840_e_@@_CESPIA.pdf

[4] Expected expenditure in year 1. See:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/warm-home-discount/1307-gov-response-warm-homes-disc-cons.pdf

[5] Ofgem feed-in tariff Newsletters:
http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/fits/Newsletter/Pages/Newsletter.aspx

[6] Based on Ofgem total annual obligation level and buyout price. Admin costs included in buyout fund post 2009-10 only.

[7] Policies active.

It should be stressed that the above figures do not account for the direct benefits to energy consumers from these policies and the impact they have in helping to offset costs. For example, the net impact of CERT and EEC I and II is estimated to be a reduction of £61 (in real 2010 prices) on the average household energy (electricity and gas) bill in 2011 (see:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/about-us/economics-social-research/3593-estimated-impacts-of-our-policies-on-energy-prices.pdf

There are no estimates of the VAT paid to the Exchequer from energy levies.

### Energy: Billing

**Mr Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will ensure that the same opportunities for fuel bill management are provided to those living in rural areas and those living in urban areas. [87155]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government are keen to ensure that all households have access to opportunities to manage their fuel bills. The Check, Switch, Insulate to Save campaign, signed up to by Ofgem and all major energy suppliers, is aimed at helping all consumers save on energy bills this winter, whether rural or urban. In addition, Government programmes which support the installation of household energy efficiency are GB wide and equally relevant and available to rural and urban households.

### Energy: Prices

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has made to energy companies to ensure that consumers on prepayment meters can benefit from the most economical tariffs. [88151]

**Charles Hendry:** Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including the rules that govern switching payment methods. New rules introduced by Ofgem in 2009 to prevent unfair price differentials, such as those between different payment methods, have shown that prepayment meter customers now pay, on average, £20 less than standard credit customers for their gas and electricity.

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 803W, on electricity prices, what the monetary value will be of a two to three per cent. increase in the average electricity bill in 2020. [88516]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC previously estimated that the CCS levy would have added 2-3% (£15-17 in 2009 prices) to average household electricity bills in 2020.

DECC is currently reviewing how CCS projects will be supported in a cost-effective manner as part of the electricity market reform.

### Energy: Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from the Welsh Government on the transfer of powers relating to energy generation above 50MW since May 2011. [88020]

**Charles Hendry:** At the British-Irish Council summit on 20 June 2011, the Welsh First Minister, Carwyn Jones, raised the issue of the transfer of consenting powers for generating stations over 50 MW to the Welsh Government.

The First Minister subsequently wrote to the Prime Minister on 18 July 2011 requesting a formal review of decision making for major infrastructure projects in Wales. The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), replied on 2 August 2011 stating that the UK Government had not seen any compelling evidence to support such a change.

The Secretary of State met the Welsh Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, John Griffiths, on 24 November 2011. The issue of consenting for major energy infrastructure in Wales was discussed during the course of that meeting.

### Environment Protection

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on support for combined heat and power units; what assessment he has made of the effect on users of such units of *(a)* a carbon floor price and *(b)* the removal of the levy exemption certificate; and if he will make a statement. [87842]

**Gregory Barker:** The Government recognises the carbon savings that Good Quality combined-heat and power (CHP) delivers and the role gas CHP plays providing highly cost-effective energy efficiency within the industrial sector.

Budget 2011 announced that from 2013, the new relief from the carbon price floor for CHP will be introduced and the existing relief from climate change levy provided through levy exemption certificates removed.

A Tax Impact and Information Note on the removal of the exemption was published on 6 December, alongside the draft legislation, and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/tiin/tiin700.pdf

The Government are working with the CHP Association and its members in order to develop a simpler, direct and more cost effective means of support for combined heat and power stations.

The level of the relief from the carbon price floor for supplies of fossil fuels to Good Quality CHP stations that are intended to be used to generate electricity will be announced at Budget 2012.

### EU Emission Trading Scheme

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the EU emission trading scheme in each year since its introduction. [87832]

**Gregory Barker:** We do not keep central records of the UK cost of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to the public purse for each year since its introduction in 2005. Such information could be gathered only at a disproportionate cost. I can however set out my Department's expenditure on this over the financial year 2010-11.

The EU ETS is largely implemented by the regulators—the Environment Agency in England and Wales, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and DECC's Offshore Division for the Offshore Oil and Gas industry. All the regulators operate on a cost recovery basis, charging for their services according to published charging schedules. The Environment Agency also runs the UK registry, again on a cost recovery basis.

In addition DECC gives grant to the Environment Agency to cover set up costs of new activity. In 2010-11 this covered the inclusion of aviation into the EU ETS (from 2012) and for Phase III (2013-20) as well as enforcement activity in England. In 2010-11 this grant amounted to £590,000.

The Debt Management Office (DMO) runs on behalf of my Department a number of auctions of EU emission allowances according to a published timetable. DECC pays the administration costs of the DMO delivering this service. For auctions in 2010-11 this payment was approximately £240,000.

In addition DECC staff are involved in the transposition of the 2009 EU ETS directive and development of future emissions trading policy. The devolved Administrations also employ staff working on similar issues. DECC staff costs for those working on EU ETS was approximately £675,000 for the year 2010-11.

### Fossil Fuel Levy

**Dr Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much revenue was held in the fossil fuel levy fund for England and Wales in the last financial year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the annual income to the fund in each year to 2018. [88396]

**Charles Hendry:** The Non Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO) supported renewable electricity, and operated from 1994 to 2002. It awarded contracts on the basis of a set price for electricity over the period of the contract. Generators bid for renewable contracts, with the lowest bidder winning.

The money needed to support the NFFO was originally raised by a fossil fuel levy on consumer bills set at 10%. The levy is now set at 0% as the money raised from the auction of electricity from NFFO projects covers the payments to the NFFO generators. It also produces an excess due to the high electricity price and the sale of the ROCs attached. This Fossil Fuel Levy account is managed by Ofgem, and transferred to the consolidated fund held by HMT.

The following table shows the revenue held in the Ofgem Fossil Fuel Levy Account for 2010-11.

*2010-11 England and Wales FFL*

| | | Transfer to HMT | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Period | Balance (£ million) | Date | £ million |
| (Q1) June 2010 | 46 | — | — |
| (Q2) September 2010 | 38 | July 2010 | 22 |
| (Q3)December 2010 | 29 | December 2010 | 26 |
| (Q4) March 2011 | 29 | March 2011 | 26 |

The NFFO scheme is no longer open to new generators, but existing contracts will continue until the last of them expires in 2019. No estimate has been made of the annual income to the fund in each year to 2018. However, since April 2002 the levy rate has remained at 0% and it is reviewed annually based on accumulated income in the Fossil Fuel Levy account.

### Green Deal Scheme

**Dr Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to include energy efficient heating circulation pumps on the list of items eligible for funding under the terms of the Green Deal. [88521]

**Gregory Barker:** Energy efficient heating circulation pumps are not currently on the list of proposed qualifying improvements for the Green Deal, which are set out in Annex A to the consultation document. There is an existing process for new technologies to be assessed for inclusion into the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) methodology to then be included in the Green Deal.

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Green Deal will require that all payments to sub-contractors be made within 30 days of the completion of work; and if he will make a statement. [88645]

**Gregory Barker:** Payment terms will be a matter dealt with in the commercial contracts which will exist between different Green Deal participants. We have, however, included a requirement in the Green Deal code of practice that participants must undertake to pay suppliers on time, provide clear guidance, and encourage good practice, in accordance with the Prompt Payment Code.

### Natural Gas: Exploration

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the report by the United States Environmental Protection Agency into the effect of hydraulic fracturing on water pollution; and if he will make a statement; [87805]

(2) what recent reports he has received on any link between hydraulic fracturing and water pollution; and whether he plans to investigate any such links. [87844]

**Charles Hendry:** Consideration of issues relating to potential water pollution are a matter for the respective environment agencies in the UK, and assessment of any relevant information is a matter for them.

Both DECC and the Environment Agency are aware of the recent draft report issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on investigations in the Pavillion area of Wyoming. We note that this report is in draft form and subject to review. The Government and their agencies continue to look at reports and analysis emerging from the US in relation to unconventional gas exploration and production and to consider its implications for UK legislation.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has met representatives of the Environment Agency to discuss the link between hydraulic fracturing and water pollution; and if so, when he last met them. [87843]

**Charles Hendry:** Neither I nor other DECC Ministers have met with representatives of the Environment Agency to discuss issues relating to hydraulic fracturing. However my officials are involved in a regular dialogue with all of the UK environment agencies, and other key UK regulators, on issues relating to unconventional gas exploration and hydraulic fracturing.

### Nuclear Power

**Mr Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the domestic energy supply has been provided by nuclear power in each of the last 10 years; and what targets he has set for the proportion of domestic energy provided by nuclear power in each of the next 10 years. [87867]

**Charles Hendry:** Table 1 reports the proportion of UK primary energy supply provided by nuclear power in each of the last 10 years, 2001-10. Table 2 reports the proportion of 'gross electricity supplied' provided by nuclear power in each of the last 10 years, 2001-10.

The Government are responsible for setting the framework for nuclear policy; ultimately it will be the market that determines the proportion of electricity to be provided by nuclear power in the future.

*Table 1: Nuclear energy supply as a percentage of UK primary energy supply, 2001-10*

| | *UK primary energy supply (ktoe)* | *Nuclear energy supply (ktoe)* | *Nuclear as a percentage of UK primary energy supply* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 247,586 | 21,227 | 8.6 |
| 2002 | 241,149 | 20,619 | 8.6 |
| 2003 | 244,152 | 20,428 | 8.4 |
| 2004 | 246,062 | 18,746 | 7.6 |
| 2005 | 247,558 | 19,044 | 7.7 |
| 2006 | 244,460 | 17,889 | 7.3 |
| 2007 | 237,236 | 14,928 | 6.3 |
| 2008 | 235,041 | 12,965 | 5.5 |
| 2009 | 220,160 | 16,484 | 7.5 |
| 2010 | 227,710 | 15,134 | 6.6 |

*Source:*

Primary energy supply and nuclear energy (primary electricity) supply data from DUKES (Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics) table 1.1-1.3, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/total/total.aspx

*Table 2: Nuclear electricity supplied as a percentage of total electricity supplied, 2001-10*

| | *Total electricity supply (GWh)* | *Nuclear (GWh)* | *Nuclear as a percentage of total electricity supply* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 395,177 | 90,093 | 22.8 |
| 2002 | 395,661 | 87,848 | 22.2 |
| 2003 | 400,369 | 88,686 | 22.2 |
| 2004 | 401,418 | 79,999 | 19.9 |
| 2005 | 406,681 | 81,618 | 20.1 |
| 2006 | 404,799 | 75,451 | 18.6 |
| 2007 | 401,944 | 63,028 | 15.7 |
| 2008 | 399,715 | 52,486 | 13.1 |
| 2009 | 379,601 | 69,098 | 18.2 |
| 2010 | 383,791 | 62,140 | 16.2 |

*Source:*

DUKES (Digest of UK Energy Statistics), Electricity: Commodity Balances, Table 5.1, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

### Nuclear Reactors

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the use in *(a)* China, *(b)* Russia and *(c)* India of thorium reactors to provide a domestic source of low-carbon energy; and whether he has any plans for the use of such reactors in the UK. [87953]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC has not undertaken formal assessments of any development projects for thorium fuelled nuclear reactors in China, India or Russia, although we are aware of these countries' intentions to develop such technologies.

Nonetheless, the Department is aware of the potential of thorium reactor designs and is in the process of assessing claims over its suitability as an alternative to uranium based reactors in the longer term.

The current view of thorium reactor technologies from the nuclear industry is that, while the science is reasonably sound, developing reactors based on a thorium fuel cycle would carry major technological and commercial risks. The resources required to develop these technologies to the point at which they might be deployed successfully at a commercial scale are also very significant.

To date, both in the UK and elsewhere in the world, this has prevented private industry and government from investing significantly in the development of the technology. No thorium reactor design has yet been implemented as a commercial power reactor, while many either exist only on paper or have only had specific subsystems demonstrated. As an indicator of the challenge of taking this technology further, the Chinese Academy of Sciences estimates a development period of at least 20 years will be required before a demonstration thorium molten salt breeder reactor might be available.

While thorium does not appear to have a part to play in the UK's near to mid-term energy market, we do maintain an interest in its development. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has asked the National Nuclear Laboratory to look further into the wider benefits of next generation reactor designs and to compare the use of thorium and uranium fuels in them. We are expecting the findings to be available in due course.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policy on nuclear power of the Office for Nuclear Development's recent decision to grant interim design acceptance of generic designs for two nuclear reactors. [88179]

**Charles Hendry:** The decision to grant interim Design Acceptance Confirmations (iDACs) of generic designs for two nuclear reactors was made by the Office for Nuclear Regulation, the UK's independent nuclear safety and security regulator. The decision to grant interim Statements of Design Acceptability (iSoDAs) was made the Environment Agency.

It is the Government's view that the recent decisions by Office for Nuclear Regulation and Environment Agency to grant iDACs and iSoDAs respectively of generic designs for the UK EPR (designed by Areva and EDF Energy) and the AP1000 (designed by Westinghouse Electric Company) reactor designs is a key moment and an essential step on the critical path for delivering safe and secure nuclear new build in the UK. This signals significant progress, taken by Government, towards completion of the facilitative actions to encourage investment in new nuclear build in the UK.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Office for Nuclear Development's recent decision to grant interim design acceptance of generic designs for two nuclear reactors, when he expects new nuclear power stations in the UK to be operational. [88180]

**Charles Hendry:** The decision to grant interim Design Acceptance Confirmations (iDACs) of generic designs for two nuclear reactors was made by the Office for Nuclear Regulation, the UK's independent nuclear safety and security regulator. The decision to grant interim Statements of Design Acceptability (iSoDAs) was made the Environment Agency.

The timing of new nuclear power stations becoming operational in the UK is a matter for industry. Industry currently has plans to build 16GW of new nuclear capacity by 2025.

The Government will continue to deliver on their facilitative actions and work with industry to achieve the aim of having the first new nuclear power stations generating electricity from around 2018.

## Renewable Energy

**Mr Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of domestic energy supply has been provided by renewable energy in each of the last 10 years; whether future targets for such supplies have been agreed for the next 10 years; what corresponding targets for reducing carbon emissions have been agreed; and if he will make a statement. [87868]

**Gregory Barker:** The proportion of UK primary energy supply provided from renewable sources over the last 10 years is set out in the following table.

| | *UK primary energy supply (ktoe)* | *Renewable energy supply* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 247,586 | 2,965 | 1.2 |
| 2002 | 241,149 | 3,275 | 1.4 |
| 2003 | 244,152 | 3,506 | 1.4 |
| 2004 | 246,062 | 4,065 | 1.7 |
| 2005 | 247,558 | 4,841 | 2.0 |
| 2006 | 244,460 | 5,181 | 2.1 |
| 2007 | 237,236 | 5,592 | 2.4 |
| 2008 | 235,041 | 6,550 | 2.8 |
| 2009 | 220,160 | 7,475 | 3.4 |
| 2010 | 227,710 | 8,170 | 3.6 |

*Source:*

Primary energy supply data from DUKES (Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics) table 1.1-1.3, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/total/total.aspx *

* To note that this is not the same measure as the renewable energy directive measure also referred to in this PQ, which is renewable energy consumption as a proportion of capped gross final energy consumption.

Renewables supply data from table DUKES 7.1-7.3, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/renewables/renewables.aspx

The UK has a binding target under the renewable energy directive 2009 to produce 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020, with interim targets of 4% in 2011-12, 5.4% in 2013-14, 7.5% in 2015-16 and 10.2% in 2017-18. The Renewable Energy Roadmap published in July sets out the trajectory towards meeting our 15% renewable energy target and the related interim targets, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/renewable_ener/re_roadmap/re_roadmap.aspx

The roadmap includes illustrative 'central ranges' for eight key renewables technologies and while they do not represent technology specific targets or the level of our ambition, they do show what could be deployed by 2020.

We also have an EU target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from 1990 levels by 2020. The October 2011 emissions projections in the Carbon Plan (published on 1 December) suggest that the UK is in a strong position to deliver on more ambitious carbon budgets out to 2020. We continue to lobby strongly in Europe for a move to a more ambitious EU 2020 emissions target and, if successful, we will amend our second and third carbon budgets accordingly, following effort share negotiations with other member states, to ensure that they are consistent with new EU obligations. Further information is available in the Carbon Plan at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/tackling-climate-change/carbon-plan/3702-the-carbon-plan-delivering-our-low-carbon-future.pdf

### Renewable Energy: Costs

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of the EU Renewable Energy Directive in each year since its introduction. [87955]

**Gregory Barker:** The EU renewable energy directive (RED) was introduced in April 2009. Contributing towards renewable deployment under the directive are the renewables obligation and feed-in tariffs, the combined gross costs of which were £1.1 billion in financial year 2009-10 and £1.3 billion in 2010-11, in nominal prices based on data from Ofgem. A large proportion of this cost is the renewables obligation, which pre-dates the directive.

We do not yet have full cost data for 2011-12 which will include spend on the policies as above, as well as:

the Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme;

Phase I of the Renewable Heat Incentive which commenced on 28 November 2011; and

transport elements of the RED, which were implemented on 15 December 2011.

It should be stressed that the above cost figures do not account for the direct benefits of renewables for the UK economy. Renewables play a key role in the decarbonisation of our energy supply, necessary to meet our obligations under the Climate Change Act. They are crucial to help protect consumers from fossil fuel price fluctuations, help contribute to our long-term energy security, and drive investment in the UK.

Total renewable energy consumption increased by 27% from 42.6 TWh in 2008 to 53 TWh in 2010—representing 3.3% of total energy consumed. In addition, latest estimates show that, in the current financial year, companies have already announced plans for almost £2.5 billion worth of investment in renewable energy projects in the UK. See:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn11_115/pn11_115.aspx

### Renewable Energy: Heating

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which companies *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met to discuss the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in the last six months; and if he will meet representatives from the oil heating industry to discuss the RHI. [87862]

**Gregory Barker:** In the last six months, I have met with a number of companies where a range of energy issues including the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) have been discussed. None of these meetings have been exclusively concerning the RHI.

I have asked my officials to engage with Oftec (Oil Firing Technical Association) who represent members of the oil-fired heating industry. They have provided useful evidence which we are considering. I therefore do not propose to meet members of the oil-fired heating industry at this time.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce a decision on whether bioliquids will be included in the Renewable Heat Incentive; and if he will make a statement. [87863]

**Gregory Barker:** As stated in the Renewable Heat Incentive policy document (published in March 2011), we are considering whether to support bioliquids as part of developing the second phase of the scheme. In the light of the later than expected launch of phase one of the Renewable Heat Incentive and of the changes required by the European Commission, we are reviewing the timetable for the introduction of phase two and will confirm the timetable early in 2012.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in HM Treasury about the inclusion of bioliquids in the Renewable Heat Incentive. [87864]

**Gregory Barker:** My officials and I have regular discussions with HM Treasury about a range of issues but there have been no discussions specifically about the possible inclusion of bioliquids in the Renewable Heat Incentive.

As stated in the Renewable Heat Incentive policy document (published in March 2011), we are considering whether to support bioliquids as part of developing the second phase of the scheme. In the light of the later than expected launch of phase one of the Renewable Heat Incentive and of the changes required by the European Commission, we are reviewing the timetable for the introduction of phase two and will confirm the timetable early in 2012.

**Dr Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether the introduction of phase two of the Renewable Heating Incentive will coincide with the commencement of the Green Deal programme; [87891]

(2) whether he plans to publish further guidance in respect of the proposed introduction of phase two of the Renewable Heat Incentive. [87892]

**Gregory Barker:** We are currently developing our proposals for supporting domestic heat and we intend to publish these for public consultation in due course. In the light of the later than expected launch of Phase One of the RHI and of the changes required by the European Commission, we are reviewing the timetable for the introduction of Phase Two. We will be able to confirm the exact timing early in 2012.

### Renewables Obligation

**Dr Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effects of his proposals to reform the banding of renewables obligation certificates for gasification and pyrolysis technologies on *(a)* investor confidence in the development of generating plant, *(b)* local authority procurement for residual waste treatment processes and *(c)* the potential development of such processes as alternatives to fossil fuels. [87889]

**Gregory Barker:** The Government's policy aim is to bring on the deployment of gasification and pyrolysis technologies, including the most advanced forms, which can generate renewable energy efficiently and cost-effectively from waste resources that would otherwise go to landfill. Our assessment of these issues is set out in the renewables obligation banding review consultation published in October

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/ro-banding/3235-consultation-ro-banding.pdf

As part of the consultation process DECC officials are actively engaging with stakeholders to ensure the best possible evidence base for determining support for gasification and pyrolysis technologies in the next banding period. The Government are due to publish their response to the consultation in spring 2012.

**Dr Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the definition of eligible gasification and pyrolysis technologies in his proposals to reform the banding of renewable obligation certificates for gasification and pyrolysis technologies. [87890]

**Gregory Barker:** The renewables obligation banding review consultation published in October proposed new definitions for gasification and pyrolysis alongside proposed levels of support from 2013 to 2017. Our proposals are based on deployment evidence and work undertaken by Arup that the existing definitions are not fully achieving the Government's policy aim to incentivise efficient and cost-effective generation by this sector. Officials are actively engaging with developers during the consultation period on what technologies will be eligible for what level of support and will use the further evidence provided to inform our response to the consultation due in spring 2012.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his proposed changes to the renewables obligation will result in the cancelling of any proposed renewable projects. [88401]

**Charles Hendry:** The changes to the renewables obligation (RO) proposed by Government are intended to bring on the most cost-effective and affordable deployment and to result in substantially higher levels of renewable electricity generation than if we were to leave the bands unchanged. We expect the support levels proposed in the RO banding review consultation, published on 20 October 2011, to help deliver around 70-75 terrawatt-hours (TWh) of large-scale renewable electricity per year by the end of the banding period in April 2017. This is around three times the amount generated by renewable electricity in 2010 (25.7TWh)[1] and in line with our long-term goal for large-scale renewable electricity to contribute 108TWh/y of the 234TWh/y of generation needed to meet our 2020 renewable energy target. Our consultation proposals will also encourage substantial investment, providing opportunities for jobs and wealth creation.

[1] UK Renewable Energy Roadmap, DECC, July 2011, URN 11D/698.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/renewable_ener/re_roadmap/re_roadmap.aspx

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has calculated the potential change in the level of generation from advanced thermal technologies as a result of the Government's proposed reform of the renewables obligation in respect of gasification and pyrolysis technologies. [88402]

**Charles Hendry:** The renewables obligation banding review consultation published in October 2011 sets out the Government's proposals in respect of gasification and pyrolysis technologies. The impact of our proposals on these technologies is discussed in the consultation stage impact assessment published last November. Both documents are available on the Department of Energy and Climate Change's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro_review.aspx

The Government's policy aim is to bring on the deployment of gasification and pyrolysis technologies, including the most advanced forms, which can generate renewable energy efficiently and cost-effectively from waste resources that would otherwise go to landfill. Because of the small size of the advanced conversion technologies sector, the information on costs and deployment potential used to inform our consultation proposals was limited. We have therefore invited further evidence on costs and deployment potential as part of the consultation process to inform our final decision on the support levels for gasification and pyrolysis technologies from 1 April 2013. DECC officials are actively engaging with stakeholders to ensure the best possible evidence base for determining support for gasification and pyrolysis technologies in the next banding period. The Government are due to publish their response to the consultation in spring 2012.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of employment in the renewable energy sector of his proposals to reform the Renewables Obligation Certificate regime for gasification and pyrolysis technologies; [88675]

(2) whether he has made an estimate of the number of infrastructure projects in the advanced thermal technology sector which will not proceed under his proposal to reform the Renewables Obligation Certificate regime for gasification and pyrolysis technologies; [88676]

(3) what level of savings he expects to accrue from reducing the Renewables Obligation Certificate payment for electricity generated by standard gasification and pyrolysis; [88677]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on investor confidence of his proposal to reform the definitions for the award of Renewables Obligation Certificates for gasification and pyrolysis technologies after the passage of the Renewables Obligation Order 2009 and before the introduction of electricity market reforms. [88678]

**Charles Hendry:** The Renewables Obligation banding review consultation published in October 2011 sets out the Government's proposals in respect of gasification and pyrolysis technologies. The impact of our proposals on these technologies is discussed in the consultation stage Impact Assessment published last November. Both documents are available on the Department of Energy and Climate Change's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro_review.aspx

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### Solar Power

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with industry to encourage the take-up of integrated solar systems; and if he will make a statement. [88644]

**Gregory Barker:** Ministers and officials meet regularly with a range of stakeholders from the solar photovoltaic industry.

Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Dr Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many companies his *(a)* Department and *(b)* consultants contacted directly for cost information to inform the proposals to change feed-in tariffs in respect of (i) rent a roof or free solar, (ii) social housing and (iii) private installations; and if he will list the average cost per kilowatt of installed capacity in each of these categories. [88520]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC officials and consultants have met with a broad range of companies during the process of reviewing the Feed-in Tariffs scheme. The cost information gathered during these meetings is reflected in the consultants' report ("Updates to feed in tariff model—documentation of changes for solar PV consultation") and specifically Annex B ("References for cost and potential data updates"), which supplements the Impact Assessment and can be found on our website:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/fits_comp_rev1/fits_comp_rev1.aspx

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish his response to the consultation on the solar power feed-in tariff. [88755]

**Gregory Barker:** The consultation will conclude on 23 December 2011. This will be followed by consideration of responses to consultation, after which a Government response will be published and any changes will be subjected to parliamentary scrutiny. We are proposing that changes to the tariffs will come into effect on 1 April 2012.

### Wind Power: Planning Permission

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what directions he has issued on the treatment of the viability of a wind farm application as material planning consideration. [88560]

**Charles Hendry:** Current planning policy advises that the economics of a scheme are a matter for the technical and commercial judgement of the wind farm applicant, as with all other planning applications.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Arms Trade

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* bi-lateral and *(b)* multi-lateral meetings (i) he and (ii) his officials have had with their international counterparts to discuss the importance of securing a robust Arms Trade Treaty in preparation for the final Preparatory Committee in February 2012. [88049]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Securing a robust and effective Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a priority for the Government. Department for International Development officials regularly raise the Treaty with their international counterparts to highlight the importance of an ATT and to understand the positions of other states. The UK delegation to the Arms Trade Treaty has regular meetings with other states—for example, with the European Union and with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (P5).

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's officials at each grade are working on the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations; whether there has been any change in the personnel leading on this matter; and whether he expects any further changes to be made before July 2012. [88060]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Counter Proliferation Department lead on the negotiation of an Arms Trade Treaty and are supported by officials from the Department for International

Development (DFID), as well as from other Departments. DFID is committed to continuing its presence on the UK's Arms Trade Treaty delegation.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which representatives from his Department have attended each of the UN Preparatory Committee meetings for the International Arms Trade Treaty; and which representatives from his Department will attend the meeting in February 2012. [88617]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The UK Delegation has included an official from the Department for Intentional Development at each of the UN preparatory committees and will continue to do so at the Treaty Negotiating Conference.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88371]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development has not used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010.

### Developing Countries: Water

**Mr Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish the outcome of his Department's review of its support for water and sanitation programmes. [87865]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing its work on water and sanitation to see how we can achieve even more results and better value for money. This includes looking at the effectiveness of programmes in improving health outcomes.

The results of this review will be available early in 2012.

### Nigeria: Equality

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development programmes funded by his Department aim to promote equality in Nigeria. [87553]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Equitable economic growth and fair access to health care and education are critical for sustained development in Nigeria. The Department for International Development (DFID) programmes in Nigeria promote equality.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Stalking And Harassment: Internet

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she has any plans to negotiate a code of conduct in respect of stalking and harassment with social media providers; [87530]

(2) if she will consider introducing a duty on social media providers to co-operate with the police during any investigation into stalking or harassment under the provisions of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. [87531]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 covers all situations where a perpetrator pursues a course of conduct which amounts to harassment. It does not matter whether the conduct was committed online or offline.

This is a challenging international problem, with social media providers and internet servers often located outside UK borders. On 11 July 2011, the Home Office helped to organise a ministerial seminar on personal harm on the internet with internet service providers, social media providers, charities and victims. One of the key themes of the seminar was cyber-stalking, and a range of perspectives from victims, academics and operational experts has informed the Government's ongoing work in this area.

The Government launched a consultation on stalking on 14 November 2011 to ask for views on how we can protect victims of stalking more effectively. The consultation incorporates a number of issues, including cyber-stalking, current legislation, and search powers. The consultation will remain open until 5 February 2012.

### Age: Discrimination

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish her response to her Department's consultation on ending age discrimination in services, public functions and associations. [87939]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government response to the consultation on exceptions to the proposed ban on age discrimination will be published in due course.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Antisocial Behaviour

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is taking to encourage the use of temporary banning orders by police forces to deal with alcohol-related anti-social behaviour; and if she will make a statement; [88417]

(2) what steps she is taking to encourage the use of drink banning orders; and if she will make a statement. [88416]

**James Brokenshire:** The Government are committed to ensuring that alcohol is no longer the driver of crime and disorder and unacceptable harms that it has been over the past decade. We are giving the police and statutory authorities the powers to enable them to do this. We are currently reviewing the effectiveness of drink banning orders and interim drink banning orders following our consultation on reforming powers to tackle antisocial behaviour.

### Animal Experiments

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many independent inspections of laboratories conducting animal research there have been in each year since 1997; and how many such inspections she expects to take place in 2012. [88419]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The number of visits to establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 by the Animals in Science Regulation Unit Inspectorate from 1997 to 2010 is in the table. The number of visits for 2011 will not be available until the end of January 2012.

I am not in a position to estimate future numbers of inspections by the Home Office Inspectors. The inspectorate will continue to take a risk-based approach to the planning and execution of the inspection programme.

| | *Number of visits for the purpose of inspection or work in progress* |
|---|---|
| 2010 | 1,984 |
| 2009 | 1,994 |
| 2008 | 2,088 |
| 2007 | 2,401 |
| 2006 | 2,381 |
| 2005 | 2,383 |
| 2004 | 2,682 |
| 2003 | 2,576 |
| 2002 | 2,264 |
| 2001 | 2,009 |
| 2000 | 2,235 |
| 1999 | 2,174 |
| 1998 | 2,163 |
| 1997 | 1,893 |

### Animal Experiments: Botulinum Toxin

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on promoting the use of alternatives to animals as soon as is practicable; whether she plans to stop authorising the use of mice for the potency testing of botulism; and what discussions she has had with her international counterparts on proposals to strengthen regulations on the use of animals in scientific procedures. [87716]

**Lynne Featherstone:** We continue to promote the development of alternatives through effective implementation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, through continuing support for the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) and through discussions, as necessary, with other Government Departments. In addition, the coalition agreement includes two commitments relating to the use of animals in scientific research:

> to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research and to end the testing of household products on animals.

The first commitment is being delivered through a science-led programme led by the NC3Rs and the second using the licensing powers provided by the 1986 Act.

With regard to potency testing of botulinum toxin, under the 1986 Act, no testing may be authorised which requires the use of protected animals when an alternative test, not requiring their use, can be used. At present, European legislation requires the use of either the mouse bioassay or a product-specific, scientifically-validated alternative for testing both the potency and safety of botulinum toxin. We are aware of a non-animal alternative test which has been approved for testing a specific botulinum toxin product in other geographical regions, but this is not yet approved in the European Union. We continue to liaise with all interested parties to ensure that all granted licences for this purpose fulfil the requirements of the 1986 Act, now and in the future, and we will continue to monitor developments.

One of the key aims of European directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes is to promote the use of alternatives and to harmonise standards across Europe. United Kingdom officials actively supported this aim in the negotiation of this directive including support for the inclusion of a requirement for thematic reviews which are intended to help to identify where alternatives can be most effective.

### Animal Experiments: Primates

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, what her policy is on the use of alternative centres that do not restock their breeding animals from the wild and whose non-human primates are all purpose and captive bred. [87117]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Our policy is that non-human primates used in scientific research must be born and bred in the UK and obtained from designated UK breeders/suppliers.

However, importation of animals may be allowed if sufficient animals are not available in the UK of the appropriate age range or for some long-term programmes of work that require consistency of source of non-human primates for scientific reasons.

We prefer that the imported animals are F2 non-human primates or animals sourced from self-sustaining colonies. However the use of wild-caught breeding animals is only one of the criteria by which centres are assessed. Not using wild-caught breeding animals does not of itself make a centre acceptable.

The breeding centre should have a policy of reducing dependence on wild-caught animals for future breeding stock. The number of wild-caught animals introduced into the colony for breeding should be in accordance with restrictions imposed by the national authority. Where the breeding centre is capturing wild or feral primates it should have a clearly defined and effective process for ensuring that any person trapping primates is adequately trained and supervised in humane methods of capture.

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on the prospects for successful implementation of her policy to reduce dependence on wild caught animals for breeding and supply of animals for scientific purposes to the UK of *(a)* the location of supply centres outside the jurisdiction of the UK and *(b)* the need to identify different generational offspring. [87229]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Overseas centres that currently use wild-caught animals are making significant progress towards building up numbers of F1+ breeding animals. This takes time as breeding animals are typically used for 10 years and F1 offspring take several years to reach sexual maturity. The most recent round of appraisals suggested that good progress is being made at the Mauritian centres currently being used.

It is sensible to have acceptable supply centres in more than one country as it is possible that a centre or country could become unusable without notice due to a number of factors completely outside the control of users such as economic, political, health and transport issues.

The captive bred filial status of non-human primates (F1, F2, F2+ etc.), where deducible from knowledge of the centres' practices and/or from individual records, is one of the pieces of information that is supplied to the Home Office in a report following each acquisition.

### Arrest Warrants

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been sent to the UK under the European Arrest Warrant, in order to face prosecution, in each year since its inception, by type of offence; and if she will make a statement. [78626]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Due to the way that the data are recorded, it is not possible for these figures to be broken down by the number returned to face prosecution or to serve an existing sentence in each year without a manual examination of each individual case file. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

### Asylum

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum case files have been open for *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years, *(c)* three years, *(d)* four years and *(e)* five years or more. [79715]

**Damian Green:** The number of open cases in the new asylum model, also known as the asylum work in progress caseload (WiP) was published on the HM Government website in August 2011 reflecting June data. The breakdown is shown in the following table:

| *Age of cases (months)* | *WiP as at end June 11* |
|---|---|
| 12-24 | 7,088 |
| 24-36 | 9,262 |
| 36-48 | 7,835 |
| 48-60 | 3,403 |

All cases that are over 60 months belong to the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU). There are 17,000[1] of these in the live case cohort, as well as 93,000[1] cases in the controlled archive.

All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claims were concluded within *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 24 months in each of the last five years. [81481]

**Damian Green:** The number of asylum claims concluded in *(a)* 6, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 24 months in each of the last five years is listed in the following table:

*Number*

| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Concluded in six months | 8924 | 9711 | 9501 | 9146 | 5856 |
| Concluded in 12-months | 10589 | 11748 | 11884 | 10613 | n/a[2] |
| Concluded in 18-months | 11519 | 12970 | 13289 | 11120 | n/a[2] |
| Concluded in 24-months | 12156 | 14018 | 14324 | 11170 | n/a[2] |

[1] The 2011 figures are from January-September 2011.

[2] We are unable to supply these figures as we have not yet reached the 12-month, 18-month, 24-month conclusion periods for asylum cases received in 2011.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are cumulative; therefore cases concluded within 24-months include all cases concluded within six, 12, and 18-months.
2. All figures quoted are management information which have been subject to internal quality checks.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in compensation to asylum seekers in each of the last five years; and what the 20 largest sums of compensation paid out in individual cases were in each of the last five years. [86693]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency prepares its accounts in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards adapted for the public sector in accordance with guidance issued by HM Treasury.

The UK Border Agency has previously reported the total amount of compensation payments made in its annual resource accounts. However, it is not possible to disaggregate these totals without incurring disproportionate costs. It is also not possible to identify separately only those payments made to asylum seekers without incurring disproportionate costs.

The 20 largest sums of compensation per year since 2009 are shown in the following table. Data prior to this point are not held centrally.

| | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 200,000.00 |
| 2009 | 195,675.00 |
| 2009 | 150,000.00 |
| 2009 | 110,000.00 |
| 2009 | 105,000.00 |
| 2009 | 100,500.00 |
| 2009 | 100,000.00 |
| 2009 | 100,000.00 |
| 2009 | 90,000.00 |
| 2009 | 70,000.00 |
| 2009 | 70,000.00 |
| 2009 | 62,500,00 |
| 2009 | 60,000.00 |
| 2009 | 55,000.00 |
| 2009 | 50,000.00 |
| 2009 | 45,000.00 |
| 2009 | 45,000.00 |
| 2009 | 33,000.00 |

| | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 30,100.00 |
| 2009 | 30,000.00 |
| 2010 | 138,000.00 |
| 2010 | 130,000.00 |
| 2010 | 110,000.00 |
| 2010 | 105,000.00 |
| 2010 | 85,000.00 |
| 2010 | 82,804.00 |
| 2010 | 82,000.00 |
| 2010 | 75,000.00 |
| 2010 | 75,000.00 |
| 2010 | 70,000.00 |
| 2010 | 60,000.00 |
| 2010 | 60,000.00 |
| 2010 | 60,000.00 |
| 2010 | 58,500.00 |
| 2010 | 57,500.00 |
| 2010 | 56,000.00 |
| 2010 | 55,000.00 |
| 2010 | 48,000.00 |
| 2010 | 47,500.00 |
| 2010 | 45,000.00 |
| 2011 | 170,000.00 |
| 2011 | 150,000.00 |
| 2011 | 150,000.00 |
| 2011 | 122,000.00 |
| 2011 | 121,500.00 |
| 2011 | 110,000.00 |
| 2011 | 102,500.00 |
| 2011 | 100,000.00 |
| 2011 | 92,500.00 |
| 2011 | 90,000.00 |
| 2011 | 87,000.00 |
| 2011 | 85,000.00 |
| 2011 | 85,000.00 |
| 2011 | 84,896.00 |
| 2011 | 84,000.00 |
| 2011 | 82,000.00 |
| 2011 | 72,000.00 |
| 2011 | 70,000.00 |
| 2011 | 65,000.00 |
| 2011 | 65,000.00 |

### British Nationality

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the detention data tables Immigration Statistics April to June 2011, how many detainees granted temporary admission or release were subsequently *(a)* removed from the UK, *(b)* allowed to remain in the UK and *(c)* granted a different status. [82114]

**Damian Green:** With reference to the detention data tables immigration Statistics April June 2011 of the 7,345 individuals who were granted temporary admission or release on leaving detention in 2010, 1,544 individuals have subsequently been removed from the UK, and 2,316 individuals have subsequently been granted leave to remain in the UK.

The remaining individuals are either in the process of being removed or awaiting a final decision on their cases. Some may have appealed against earlier decisions or submitted new applications.

Of those awaiting removal, some will have been returned to immigration detention. Where detention is not possible—for example if there are barriers to removal such as difficulties in obtaining travel documents—individuals must report regularly to the UK Border Agency.

Furthermore, some may have left the country voluntarily without informing the UK Border Agency.

All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

### Brodie Clark

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when in 2011 *(a)* she and *(b)* the Minister of State for Immigration had meetings with Brodie Clark. [80505]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* Home Office Ministers have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Burglary

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of shed burglaries in Nottinghamshire which were categorised as *(a)* burglaries and *(b)* other forms of crime in 2011. [87328]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* Information is not available on how shed burglaries have been categorised in Nottinghamshire from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

### Civil Disorder

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the funds provided by her Department in respect of compensation following the public disorder of August 2011 are allocated from existing budgets; and if she will make a statement. [71788]

**Nick Herbert:** Funding allocated by the Home Office following the public disorder of August 2011 is not being taken from the police funding settlement. It has been allocated from savings in other areas and from the Department's contingency provision.

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Morecambe and Lunesdale of 24 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 481W, on civil disorder, how the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 will be reviewed; which external organisations will be consulted as part of the review; and when she expects the review to be completed. [84255]

**Nick Herbert:** We want to ensure that we consider all learning derived from last August's disorder, including consultation with people affected by the disorder and organisations involved in the recovery. The review is expected to be completed by the end of this financial year.

**Stella Creasy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter she sent to Chairs of Police Authorities with guidance on her Department's response to the public disorder of August 2011, including proposed amendments to the regulations under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 and details of the bureau established to receive and assess claims from those without insurance. [88711]

**Nick Herbert:** A copy of the letter dated 12 August 2011 from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), to chairs of police authorities will be placed in the Library. In August, the Home Secretary made regulations under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 to increase the time in which people could submit compensation claims to police authorities from 14 days to 42. A review of the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 is under way and will consider all options for reform. There are therefore not yet any specific proposed amendments to the regulations. The bureau set up in August by the Home Office to help prepare claims from the uninsured to be sent to police authorities with a recommendation for payment is still operational and processing claims.

**Stella Creasy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response she plans to make to the claim by the Metropolitan Police for special grant funding to reimburse the estimated additional costs of Operations Kirkin and Withern and the provisions of the Riot (Damages) Act 1886. [88713]

**Nick Herbert:** Applications received under special grant have been processed; the decision and response to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) will be conveyed imminently.

### Civil Disorder: Greater London

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings she has had with *(a)* the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and *(b)* the Mayor of London on changes to the Service Mobilisation Plan of the Metropolitan Police Service following the public disorder in London in August 2011. [77982]

**Nick Herbert:** Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Crime

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of high levels of crime on the commercial viability of high streets. [88100]

**James Brokenshire:** My Department has not made any assessment of the effect of crime on the commercial viability of high streets.

### Crime: Economic Situation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of personal and household crime to the economy in 2010. [87333]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]*: In 2005, the Home Office published estimates of the costs of crime in England and Wales for the year 2003-04. The total burden of crime against individuals and households was estimated to be £36.2 billion. Updated cost estimates of specific crime types were published in 2011, but the Home Office has not published any more recent estimates of the total cost of crime to the economy.

### Crime: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Government to discuss serious and organised crime. [88159]

**Nick Herbert:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has not met the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Government to discuss serious and organised crime.

### Crimes of Violence

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that crimes relating to honour-based violence are recorded in a separate category from other offences by police authorities. [87790]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Crimes relating to honour-based violence can range from emotional abuse and harassment at one end of the spectrum through to serious violence and murder at the other end. Although these crimes are recorded as the relevant substantive criminal offence they are also identified by police forces as honour-based violence. There are no current plans for crimes relating to honour-based violence to be recorded in a separate category.

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to develop and implement a national strategy to tackle honour-based violence. [87791]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government's 'Call to End Violence against Women and Girls' strategy and the supporting action plan includes commitments to tackle honour-based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

In the 'Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Girls', published in March 2011, the Government committed to reviewing the findings from a honour-based violence local mapping exercise co-ordinated by the Home Office and identify models of effective practice to share with local areas, particularly those where awareness and activity to tackle forms of honour-based violence is low. The Government are also committed to continuing the delivery of training for specialist and dedicated prosecutors in issues relating to violence against women and girls, including prosecution of perpetrators of honour-based violence.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times her Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if she will make a statement. [88357]

**Damian Green:** The number of cases referred to debt recovery companies between May 2010 and November 2011 were:

| *Company* | *Number of cases referred* |
|---|---|
| Fairfax Solicitors | 1,944 |
| Coltman Warner Cranston LLP | 77 |
| Irwin Mitchell Solicitors | 69 |

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which her Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships she expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013. [88737]

**Damian Green:** Of the Home Office-sponsored executive non-departmental public bodies, only the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) employed apprentices during the periods in question, employing three apprentices between April 2010 and March 2011. None of the Home Office-sponsored executive NDPBs plan to sponsor any apprenticeships between January and March 2012 and April and March 2013.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which her Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88738]

**Damian Green:** Of the Home Office sponsored Executive non-departmental public bodies, only the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has allocated funding to sponsor apprenticeships during the periods in question. The funding from the public purse to sponsor apprenticeships in the EHRC is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Between April 2010 and March 2011 | [1]52,997 |
| *(b)* Between April 2011 and March 2012 | 0 |
| *(c)* Between April 2012 and March 2013 | 0 |

[1] This excludes the costs for employers' pension and national insurance contributions, as the actual cost information is not held by the Commission. The estimated additional cost for this is £13,249.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what equality impact assessments her Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88585]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office considers equality issues in exercising its functions, to comply with equality legislation and to ensure that it understands how its activities will affect different people. It provides information about this consideration in various ways. In the specified period, this information was sometimes published in the form of an equality impact assessment, although there has never been a legal requirement to produce such a document. Information about the number of such documents published by the Home Office is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Manpower

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff were based at *(a)* London Heathrow, *(b)* London Gatwick, *(c)* London Stansted, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Manchester, *(f)* Leeds, *(g)* Bristol, *(h)* Edinburgh, *(i)* Glasgow, *(j)* Aberdeen, *(k)* Inverness, *(l)* Prestwick, *(m)* Belfast and *(n)* Cardiff airports in each of the last five years. [80544]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Force only publishes resource data at a regional level.

In the last five years there have been a number of re-organisations leading to the merger with HMRC's Detection Service creating the UK Border Agency. The data produced in the following table reflect these re-organisations as much as is possible, but there is not always a match. The resources transferred from HMRC are only included in the November 2011 figures. All figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

| *Current Region* | | *Total staff* |
|---|---|---|
| *North* | March 2007 | 676 |
| | March 2008 | 444 |
| | March 2009 | 525 |
| | March 2010 | 472 |
| | November 2011 | 1,027 |
| *Central* | March 2007 | — |
| | March 2008 | 528 |
| | March 2009 | 523 |
| | March 2010 | 467 |
| | November 2011 | 1,219 |
| *Heathrow* | March 2007 | 1,362 |
| | March 2008 | 1,194 |
| | March 2009 | 1,193 |
| | March 2010 | 1,117 |
| | November 2011 | 1,569 |
| *South and Europe* | March 2007 | 2,163 |

| *Current Region* | | *Total staff* |
|---|---|---|
| | March 2008 | 1,649 |
| | March 2009 | 1,676 |
| | March 2010 | 1,561 |
| | November 2011 | 2,698 |

## Brodie Clark

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish a list of all meetings held between Home Office Ministers and Brodie Clark between 1 January and 5 November 2011. [79886]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 10 November 2011]:* Home Office Ministers have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

## Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87990]

**Damian Green:** Expenditure on recruitment agencies by the Home Office, including its Executive agencies, in each month from September through to November 2011 is detailed in the following table. The amounts include staff costs as well as recruiting agencies' fees.

| *2011* | *£* |
|---|---|
| September | 1,586,550 |
| October | 1,615,863 |
| November | 1,862,021 |

## Departmental Responsibilities

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings she has had with hon. Members of each political party since May 2010. [67163]

**Damian Green:** Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

## Departmental Temporary Staff

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many temporary staff were recruited to her Department between September and November 2011. [87989]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office, including executive agencies, recruited a total of 32 temporary staff during the period September to November 2011. Recruitment of all temporary staff is subject to scrutiny through internal approvals processes. Appointments are made only when operationally necessary and when posts cannot be filled by existing staff.

## Departmental Written Questions

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85935]

**Damian Green:** The information requested, to 30 November 2011, is provided in the following table:

*Home Office ordinary written questions for answer, May 2010 to November 2011*

| *Month due for answer* | *Answered in 0-10 days* | *Answered in 11-20 days* | *Answered in 21-30 days* | *Answered in over 30 days* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2010* | | | | |
| June | 199 | 17 | 5 | 1 |
| July | 230 | 49 | 4 | 6 |
| September | 238 | 31 | 2 | 11 |
| October | 209 | 20 | 9 | 6 |
| November | 288 | 19 | 15 | 3 |
| December | 191 | 11 | 6 | 1 |
| *2011* | | | | |
| January | 214 | 29 | 1 | 0 |
| February | 238 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| March | 383 | 27 | 4 | 1 |
| April | 106 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| May | 276 | 28 | 1 | 2 |
| June | 246 | 14 | 5 | 8 |
| July | 156 | 5 | 8 | 11 |
| September | 266 | 20 | 16 | 19 |
| October | 241 | 13 | 5 | 5 |
| November | 300 | 41 | 24 | 6 |

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

## Deportation: Offenders

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals were deported after having served a custodial sentence in England and Wales in each year between 1997 and 2010. [87334]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The following table sets out the number of foreign national offenders removed or deported from the UK each year. Please note that data prior to 2007 are not considered sufficiently reliable.

| | *Number of foreign national offenders removed or deported* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 4,200 |
| 2008 | 5,395 |
| 2009 | 5,530 |
| 2010 | 5,342 |

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many decisions were revised in the claimant's favour at reconsideration stage in respect of *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance in each month since May 2010. [87926]

**Chris Grayling:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

Information on employment and support allowance (ESA) reconsideration decisions is in the following table:

| | *Total reconsideration decisions* | *Reconsiderations in claimant's favour* |
|---|---|---|
| *2010* | | |
| May | 17,507 | 3,550 |
| June | 19,751 | 3,467 |
| July | 22,760 | 4,187 |
| August | 22,212 | 4,510 |
| September | 22,579 | 4,594 |
| October | 20,058 | 5,676 |
| November | 20,456 | 6,489 |
| December | 19,593 | 5,747 |
| *2011* | | |
| January | 22,863 | 7,048 |
| February | 25,055 | 7,979 |
| March | 27,927 | 8,657 |
| April | 20,898 | 7,005 |
| May | 24,009 | 8,030 |
| June | 23,513 | 7,942 |
| July | 22,634 | 7,261 |
| August | 21,182 | 6,888 |
| September | 22,411 | 7,359 |
| October | 20,826 | 7,049 |
| November | 18,052 | 6,814 |

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions—Decision Making and Appeals Case Recorder—ESA Management Information Statistics

Information on disability living allowance (DLA) reconsideration decisions is in the following table:

| | *Total reconsideration decisions* | *Reconsiderations in claimant's favour* |
|---|---|---|
| *2010* | | |
| May | 10,498 | 5,759 |
| June | 11,395 | 5,010 |
| July | 11,696 | 4,934 |
| August | 11,037 | 4,758 |
| September | 13,658 | 5,644 |
| October | 13,031 | 5,412 |
| November | 13,738 | 5,861 |
| December | 9,750 | 4,166 |
| *2011* | | |
| January | 11,506 | 4,895 |
| February | 9,850 | 4,379 |
| March | 13,008 | 5,685 |
| April | 9,438 | 4,029 |
| May | 11,102 | 4,458 |
| June | 11,120 | 4,626 |
| July | 11,104 | 4,927 |
| August | 11,647 | 5,003 |
| September | 11,706 | 4,899 |
| October | 12,234 | 5,323 |
| November | 11,848 | 5,269 |

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions—DLA Management Information Statistics

### Domestic Violence: Charitable Trusts

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on encouraging local police forces to engage with charitable organisations in order to co-ordinate action to tackle domestic violence. [88121]

**Lynne Featherstone:** It is for individual police forces to decide on their policy for engagement with charitable organisations. We are aware that the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has established a national domestic abuse (DA) Voluntary Sector Group with representation from national third sector domestic abuse organisations.

### Domestic Violence: Crime Prevention

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances restraining orders under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 have been made in instances where the defendant has been acquitted. [87434]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not include all the details of the circumstances associated with each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. It is therefore not possible to identify under what circumstances restraining orders under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 have been made in instances where the defendant has been acquitted.

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what range of conducts have been prohibited following the imposition of restraining orders under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 since its enactment. [87435]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* Information on the range of conducts that have been prohibited following the imposition of restraining orders under section 12 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 is not collected centrally.

## Drugs

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what recent progress she has made in authorising the use of drug analyser technologies. [87497]

**James Brokenshire:** Devices must be of a type approved by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), in order to be authorised for use. Manufacturers have submitted six devices for approval. Practical operational tests of these devices were completed in the summer and reports have been presented to the manufacturers so that they can make such adjustments as they consider necessary. The type approval process also requires extensive laboratory tests. We are currently finalising arrangements for these.

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to publish the report of its review of khat. [88102]

**James Brokenshire:** The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) was requested by the Home Department to review the available evidence on khat, updating its assessment of 2005, and provide advice in relation to control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and a wider response.

The ACMD anticipates that the review will be completed by December 2012.

## Drugs: Arrests

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested for possession of and *(b)* charged with possession of (i) ecstasy or MDMA, (ii) ketamine, (iii) LSD, (iv) cocaine, (v) crack cocaine, (vi) heroin, (vii) amphetamines and (viii) methadone in each of the last five years. [88427]

**James Brokenshire:** The information requested on arrests and charges is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office relates to notifiable offences only, which form the basis of recorded crime statistics. Latest available data are published in chapter 1 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales, 2009-10', which is available in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb0711/

The data are provided to the Home Office at offence group level, for example violence against the person and drug offences. As such, it is not possible to separately identify arrests for the possession of specific drugs. It is also not possible to match the aggregate data to any subsequent outcomes.

## Drugs: UK Border Agency

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many seizures of *(a)* class A and *(b)* class B drugs the UK Border Agency made in the first six months of 2011. [88421]

**Damian Green:** The latest drug seizure statistics that have been produced in accordance with the Home Office's Statement of Compliance are contained within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2010/11', published on 10 November 2011, accessed via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1711/hosb1711?view=Binary

The UK Border Agency made 1,287 seizures of class A and 1,637 seizures of class B drugs in the period from 1 April 2010 until 31 March 2011.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* cocaine, *(b)* crack cocaine, *(c)* heroin, *(d)* methadone, *(e)* herbal cannabis, *(f)* cannabis resin and *(g)* amphetamines was seized by the UK Border Agency in the first six months of 2011. [88423]

**Damian Green:** The latest drug seizure statistics that have been produced in accordance with the Home Office's Statement of Compliance are contained within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2010/11' (accessed via the following link), published on 10 November 2011:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1711/hosb1711?view=Binary

The following table shows the amount of cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, herbal cannabis, cannabis resin and amphetamines seized by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) in the period from 1 April 2010 until 31 March 2011. Methadone seizures are not included as they could not be separately identified from the UKBA's recording system.

*Drugs seized in the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011*

| *Type* | *Quantity (kg)* |
|---|---|
| Cocaine | 1,519.3 |
| Crack cocaine | 13.9 |
| Heroin | 420.4 |
| Herbal cannabis | 13,596.9 |
| Cannabis resin | 15,343.6 |
| Amphetamines | 137.3 |

*Please note the following caveats:*

1. Drugs can be seized in a variety of forms or preparation types. In this table quantities of drugs have been converted to kg. To present all seized quantities within a given drug type in terms of one comparable unit, conversion factors are applied to estimate the overall quantity of the drug.
2. Quantities data for all drugs are not applicable as conversion factors are not applied to all drugs.
3. Where the quantity of a seizure is recorded as 'trace' it is not included in these figures.
4. Includes data from HM Revenue and Customs. Seizures from joint operations involving the UKBA and the police are recorded against the lead agency that takes possession of the seized drugs.
5. Weighted items are presented to one decimal place.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ecstasy tablets the UK Border Agency seized in the first six months of 2011. [88424]

**Damian Green:** The latest drug seizure statistics that have been produced in accordance with the Home Office's Statement of Compliance are contained within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2010/11', published on 10 November 2011, accessed via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1711/hosb1711?view=Binary

The UK Border Agency seized 300 ecstasy tablets in the period from 1 April 2010 until 31 March 2011.

### Drugs: Young People

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Education on the role of personal, social and health education in preventing young people abusing drugs and alcohol. [88415]

**James Brokenshire:** My officials are in continuous dialogue with their colleagues in the Department for Education about drugs education and the important part that it plays in contributing to the drugs strategy and in particular the reducing demand strand. Drug education is also a subject covered by the Drug Strategy Inter-Ministerial Group upon which Minsters from both the Home Office, Department for Education and other Departments sit.

The continuing discussions at official level also cover the imminent cross-Government Alcohol Strategy, which will address the full range of harms from alcohol (both health and social impacts) and which is due to be published in 2012 by the Department of Health.

### Extradition: Russia

**Mr David:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the Russian Federation is listed as a Category 2 territory with respect to extradition procedures. [87720]

**Damian Green:** The UK and Russia are both party to the 1957 Council of Europe Convention on Extradition ('ECE'). As with other parties to the ECE, Russia has been designated as an extradition partner under Part 2 of the Extradition Act 2003.

### Extradition: USA

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 864W, on extradition: USA, for what reason it would prejudice proceedings were the UK to confirm or deny whether the UK authorities have provided evidence or other formal assistance in support of foreign criminal proceedings. [88184]

**Damian Green:** It is established international practice that formal requests for mutual legal assistance in criminal proceedings are confidential. This is in order to protect the confidentiality of the foreign proceedings, for example by protecting the confidentiality of any witnesses who may be asked to provide or who have already provided evidence in those proceedings and to avoid tipping off suspects that they are under investigation. It is our usual policy to neither confirm nor deny whether we have received a request for mutual legal assistance because if we only refused to confirm or deny the existence of a request on occasions where the foreign criminal proceeding would be prejudiced then it would be obvious, on those occasions, that we had in fact received such a request. Therefore the application of a blanket policy preserves the confidentiality of all formal requests for mutual legal assistance.

### Forced Marriage

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most common countries of origin are of victims of forced marriages. [87811]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

In 2010, the highest proportion of cases reported to the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) involved victims with a family connection to Pakistan (52%), Bangladesh (10.3%) or India (8.6%).

### Foreign Nationals: Offenders

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish her Department's report on foreign national offenders awaiting deportation. [88771]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency's report on foreign national offenders is a restricted internal document to Ministers and in line with long standing practice is not intended for publication.

The UK Border Agency chief executive's update to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 20 December 2011 provided information on this cohort of foreign national offenders. A copy of the letter can be found in the House Library.

### Forensic Science Service

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether forensic science exhibits related to criminal cases are to be transferred to the National Forensics Archive after the closure of the Forensic Science Service; and if she will make a statement. [88422]

**James Brokenshire:** Case files and retained materials will continue to be held in the Forensic Science Service (FSS) Archive, which will operate after March 2012 from the two existing FSS archive sites in the west midlands.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the place of forensic science within her research strategy. [88432]

**James Brokenshire:** To date, I have had no such discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Havant (Mr Willetts).

Officials from the Home Office are in contact with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) all of which are executive non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

### Forensic Science Service: Drugs

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on *(a)* the future of drug profiling and *(b)* Dart-MS technology of the closure of the Forensic Science Service. [88412]

**James Brokenshire:** Other forensic service providers have the capability to meet the drug profiling and toxicology requirements of the National Forensic Framework Agreement and will continue to deliver these services to police forces.

In addition, for drug profiling, provisions are being put in place to ensure that the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has access to the equipment required to deliver the Endorse project. This will be delivered by UK forensics providers as well as European partners.

In respect of Direct Analysis in Real Time Mass Spectrometry (DART-MS), as set out in the answer from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Equalities and Criminal Information, the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone), of 5 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 237W, this is not stipulated in any of the work packages of the National Forensic Framework Agreement, and information on this is therefore not held centrally.

### Human Trafficking

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons she has decided to discontinue the production and publication of a human trafficking strategy jointly with the Scottish Government. [86931]

**Damian Green:** The UK Government's Human Trafficking strategy was published on 19 July 2011 and sets out the UK's response to fighting human trafficking.

The strategy reflects the UK's intention to work with international partners and to work smarter at the border to prevent traffickers from entering the UK. The strategy also sets out the new victim care arrangements introduced in England and Wales from 1 July 2011. Similar victim care arrangements are already in place in Scotland.

### Human Trafficking: Moldova

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the extent of human trafficking between Moldova and the UK. [88352]

**Damian Green:** Data from the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) for the period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2011 show there have been five referrals where the potential trafficking victim has been identified as Moldovan. A breakdown of referrals to the UKHTC can be found at:

http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/national-referral-mechanism/statistics

### Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people charged with offences related to human trafficking in the last 12 months have subsequently been prosecuted. [88394]

**Damian Green:** 30 persons were proceeded against at magistrates courts in 2010 (latest available) for human trafficking offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004. These figures relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Charging data are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice. Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

### Human Trafficking: Sexual Offences

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the level of trafficking in the UK for the purposes of *(a)* sexual exploitation, *(b)* forced labour and *(c)* domestic servitude. [88634]

**Damian Green:** The UK Human Trafficking Centre is responsible for collating data on potential human trafficking victims. A breakdown of referrals by exploitation type can be found at:

http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/national-referral-mechanism/statistics

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been charged with *(a)* trafficking of women prostitute offences and *(b)* controlling sex workers in the London area since 1 January 2010. [88792]

**Damian Green:** Charging data are not collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

### Human Trafficking: Victims

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* in each age group and *(b)* of each nationality and country of origin had been identified as victims of trafficking in the latest period for which figures are available. [88395]

**Damian Green:** The UK Human Trafficking Centre is responsible for collating data on potential human trafficking victims. A breakdown of referrals by age and nationality can be found at:

http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/national-referral-mechanism/statistics

### Illegal Immigrants

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 458W, on illegal immigrants, how many overstayers have been identified by e-Borders checks in each of the first nine months of 2011; and how many of those overstayers have now been removed. [87740]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency (UKBA) conducts regular data-matching exercises between e-Borders and other UKBA databases to effectively identify outbound offenders who have left the country. These figures are denoted in our internal reports as voluntary departures (data matching) removals.

The information requested is shown in the following table:

*Voluntary departures (data matching) identified and removed, January to September 2011*

| *Month* | *Individuals removed* |
|---|---|
| January | 555 |
| February | 364 |
| March | 196 |
| April | 400 |
| May | 404 |
| June | 438 |
| July | 339 |
| August | 440 |
| September | 414 |
| Total | 3,550 |

*Notes*:
1. All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.
2. Figures include dependants.
3. Figures relate to people who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities, who were later identified using data matching.
[4] In line with UK Border Agency methodology the number of outbound cases identified via e-Borders checks as overstayers/immigration offenders, will be the same as those removed.

While the majority of individuals identified in the table above will have been overstayers, a small number will have committed other immigration and criminal offences. We are unable to disaggregate these data within the cost threshold.

### Illegal Immigrants: Northern Ireland

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of people who were detained while trying to enter the UK illegally through *(a)* Northern Ireland ports and airports and *(b)* the border with the Irish Republic in each of the last five years. [87909]

**Damian Green:** The Department holds the following information on how many people were detained while trying to enter the UK illegally through *(a)* Northern Ireland ports and *(b)* the border with the Irish Republic in each of the last five years.

*(a)* 2007—51; 2008—83; 2009—39; 2010—33; and 2011—30.

*(b)* In 2009, we detained 37 people close to the land border in support of a Police Service of Northern Ireland operation. As the Irish/UK land border is a part of the common travel area (CTA), it is not subject to formal immigration controls.

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 776-77W, on immigrants: detainees, how many of the detainees have subsequently been released from immigration removal centres into the UK; and for what reasons; [87731]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 776-77W, on immigrants: detainees, how many detainees held in immigration removal centres have been convicted of criminal offences in the UK; and for what offences. [87732]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* Of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24-months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April-June 2011, as of 16 December 2011, six individuals have been removed from the UK and 36 have been released from detention. Management information systems are unable to provide the reasons for release from detention. To obtain this information would involve looking through individual files and would incur disproportionate cost.

Of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24-months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April-June 2011, all 74 had been convicted of a criminal offence in the UK. The following table sets out the offences for which they were convicted.

| *Offence type* | *Number of individuals convicted* |
|---|---|
| Drug offences | 10 |
| Motoring offences | 4 |
| Violent crime | 6 |
| Sex offences | 7 |
| Deception | 25 |
| Theft/Robbery/Burglary | 17 |
| Other | 5 |

### Immigration

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average processing time for indefinite leave to remain was on *(a)* 1 October 2011 and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [81482]

**Damian Green:** The average processing time for postal claims made for indefinite leave to remain is as follows:

| | *Days* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 60 |
| 2007 | 91 |
| 2008 | 102 |
| 2009 | 139 |

| | Days |
|---|---|
| 2010 | 117 |
| 1 January 2011-30 September 2011 | 74 |

All figures quoted are management information which have been subject to internal quality checks.

The UK Border Agency also operate a premium service through their Public Enquiry Offices but this is not reflected in these figures.

**Meg Hillier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the *(a)* ports, *(b)* airports and *(c)* other immigration facilities visited by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship between May 2010 and the end of October 2011; and on what date each such visit took place. [81836]

**Damian Green:** Home Office Ministers have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her policy to prioritise consideration of valid in-time applications for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) over other applications for ILR. [87216]

**Damian Green:** There is no prioritisation of valid in time applications over any other valid applications for indefinite leave to remain. Cases are allocated and decided in order of application date unless an applicant provides suitably compelling or compassionate reasons for a case to be expedited.

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding immigration cases there are currently in the UK Border Agency-controlled archive which are not being reviewed and on which a decision has not been reached. [87763]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* As reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 15 December 2011 we have conducted a detailed analysis of all the cases that could potentially fall into the remit of the CAAU and this will result in a total of 93,000 cases in the controlled archive.

The controlled archive is actively managed by CAAU; all cases are regularly checked against a number of databases and where an applicant is traced the case is removed from the controlled archive and progressed to conclusion.

CAAU will reassess files every six months. This will include bulk checking cases against reporting data and other UK Border Agency databases to see whether applicants have re-established contact and bulk checking cases against e-borders data.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effects of the changes in immigration rules in 2007 and 2011 on the number of *(a)* overseas senior care workers in the UK, *(b)* senior care workers who have left the UK and *(c)* senior care workers granted indefinite leave to remain. [88796]

**Damian Green:** An impact assessment on the effects of the changes made to tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system in connection with implementation of limits on migration was published by the UK Border Agency on 16 March 2011 and included an assessment of the impact of those changes on the employment of non-EEA workers in the social care sector.

### Immigration Controls

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in her Department have had with (i) airport operators and (ii) airline companies at which border checks were discussed in the last 12 months. [81163]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Immobilisation of Vehicles

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to section 30 of the coalition agreement, what recent progress she has made in tackling rogue private sector wheel clampers. [87496]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Clause 54 of the Protection of Freedoms Bill will make it an offence to immobilise, move or restrict the movement of a vehicle without lawful authority. In effect, this will ban most clamping and towing by anyone other than the police, local authorities, bailiffs and other Government agencies. Subject to parliamentary approval, this legislation is expected to be enacted by May 2012. Our aim is to bring the ban on wheel clamping into force as soon as possible following Royal Assent.

### Legal Advice and Assistance

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on obtaining external legal advice in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [88428]

**Damian Green:** The amounts spent on external legal advice by the Home Office, including its executive agencies for each of the last 12 months is provided in the following table. This expenditure relates to legal advice provided by third party suppliers external to Government.

£

| | Spend HO and UKBA | CRB | IPS |
|---|---|---|---|
| December 2010 | 239,163 | 0 | 114,059 |
| January 2011 | 2,196,728 | 0 | 35,523 |
| February 2011 | 798,852 | 0 | 101,327 |

£

| | *Spend HO and UKBA* | *CRB* | *IPS* |
|---|---|---|---|
| March 2011 | 2,822,002 | 0 | 53,411 |
| April 2011 | 1,265,863 | 0 | 788 |
| May 2011 | 404,935 | 0 | 0 |
| June 2011 | 893,873 | 0 | 17,665 |
| July 2011 | 904,918 | 0 | 7,621 |
| August 2011 | 762,297 | 0 | 13,559 |
| September 2011 | 511,198 | 0 | 0 |
| October 2011 | 1,292,948 | 0 | 13,036 |
| November 2011 | 1,808,653 | 0 | 5,311 |

## Legal Services

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of the Government Legal Service are based in her Department. [88429]

**Damian Green:** There are 59 members of the Government Legal Service based in the Department. This includes 54 lawyers in the Legal Adviser's Branch (four of whom are on maternity leave) and five lawyers in the UK Border Agency's Cash Forfeiture team. The Government Equalities Office, which has been part of the Department since 1 April 2011, receives legal advice from eight members of the Government Legal Service which is part of the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

## Members: Correspondence

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale of *(a)* 8 April 2011 and *(b)* 30 June 2011 on behalf of Mr Paul Blakeman; [69419]

(2) when the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale of 8 April 2011 and 30 June 2011 on behalf of a constituent, Mr Paul Blakeman. [87311]

**Nick Herbert:** I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 20 December, a copy of which I will place in the Library.

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will arrange for the hon. Member for Walsall North to receive a reply to her letter of 15 November 2011 to the UK Border Agency concerning a constituent, reference B29310/11. [87923]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member on 13 December 2011.

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the UK Border Agency to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 21 November 2011 concerning a constituent, reference B30111/11. [87924]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member on 20 December 2011.

## Metropolitan Police

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the images held by the Association of Chief Police Officers and transferred to the Metropolitan police were subsequently erased as a result of non-compliance with the ruling in Wood *v.* MPC for the policing of the metropolis. [88790]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office does not hold this information. The National Domestic Extremism Unit regularly reviews its database to ensure compliance with the ruling in Wood *v.* MPC.

## National Policing Improvement Agency

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by the National Policing Improvement Agency on the UK's compliance with EU Council Framework Decision 2009/905/JHA; and if she will make a statement. [88413]

**James Brokenshire:** A Forensic Quality Standards Project has been set up within the National Policing Improvement Agency's (NPIA) Forensics 21 portfolio to assist police forces with the accreditation process mandated by the EU Council Framework Decision 2009/905/JHA.

Police forces are progressing towards the implementation deadlines, with eight forces having already submitted their applications to the accreditation body, the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), in order to commence their accreditation processes.

Police forces have been surveyed as part of this process and the information gained will be used to assist the roll-out process in achieving accreditation to the ISO 17025 standard in DNA facilities and fingerprint enhancement laboratories by the implementation deadlines of November 2013 and November 2015. This approach has received the endorsement and backing of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the forensic science regulator.

## Non-molestation Orders

**Mrs Grant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many arrests for offences of contempt of court where the offence related to a breach of a non-molestation injunction order there were in each year since 2004; [88136]

(2) how many arrests for offences related to breaches of non-molestation injunction orders there were in each year since 2004. [88137]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery. From these centrally reported categories it is not possible to separately identify offences relating to breaches of non-molestation orders. Offences of contempt of court are summary offences and do not form a part of the arrests collection.

### Offenders: EU Nationals

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK EU citizens from each member state were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted under each type of offence committed inside the UK in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [81157]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The information requested is not available centrally.

Arrests data for England and Wales collected by the Home Office do not include the nationality of arrested persons. Data on charges are not collected centrally.

The Ministry of Justice's court proceedings database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. This database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not the specific circumstances of each case. It is not possible to identify a defendant's nationality from this centrally held information.

The collection of police and court proceedings data for Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

### Offensive Behaviour: Football

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Government on cross-border issues arising from implementation of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act. [88160]

**James Brokenshire:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has had no discussions with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Government on cross border issues arising from implementation of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act.

### Police

**Steve Rotheram:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions she has had discussions with chief police officers since 6 August 2011; and whether she has received correspondence from chief police officers regarding the police budget since that date. [70502]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 7 September 2011]:* Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which police forces *(a)* she and *(b)* each Minister in her Department has visited since January 2011; [77802]

(2) when *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department met the (i) Constables' Central Committee, (ii) Sergeants' Central Committee, (iii) Inspectors' Central Committee and (iv) Chairman and General Secretary of the Police Federation of England and Wales between May 2010 and 31 October 2011; [78998]

(3) when *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department formally met representatives of the Police Superintendents Association of England and Wales between 10 May 2010 and 31 October 2011. [79537]

**Nick Herbert:** Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Police and Crime Commissioners

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources she plans to provide for *(a)* publicity and *(b)* measures to encourage a diverse range of candidates in respect of the positions of Police and Crime Commissioners; and what estimate she has made of the total cost to the public purse of such resources. [86802]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* On 21 November I issued a call for candidates from all backgrounds and launched a website containing information about this new role. Funding for this engagement will come from existing budgets.

### Police Federation

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what dates she met officials from the Police Federation in the last 12 months; [79716]

(2) on how many occasions she has met representatives of the Police Federation in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [74510]

**Nick Herbert:** Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Police Stations: Medway

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the use of virtual police stations in the Medway towns. [87505]

**Nick Herbert:** The use of video technology by Kent police is making justice quicker and more effective, freeing up valuable police time and resources to enable them to carry out their frontline duties.

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce the burden of administration for the police. [87882]

**Nick Herbert:** We have announced a package of policies that will cut police bureaucracy, saving up to 3.3 million police hours per year—the equivalent of over 1,500 police officers. This work is being taken forward by the joint Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers Reducing Bureaucracy Programme Board, chaired by Chief Constable Chris Sims.

**Mr Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of time on average *(a)* all officers and *(b)* patrol officers spent (i) on (A) incident and (B) non-incident-related paperwork and (ii) on patrol in each year since 2003-04. [53379]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office has not collected data on the time spent by police officers on paperwork since 2007-08. It is therefore not possible to provide the data requested.

### Police: Manpower

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offender management staff were employed by police authorities in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [82914]

**Nick Herbert:** This information is not published.

### Police: Olympic Games 2012

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she last met her counterpart in the Scottish Government to discuss mutual aid in policing for the London 2012 Olympics; [88161]

(2) how many police officers from Scottish police forces will be deployed in England under mutual aid arrangements for the London 2012 Olympics. [88162]

**James Brokenshire:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has not met the Scottish Government to discuss the provision of police mutual aid for the London 2012 Olympic Games. These are operational policing matters and, while detailed planning continues, the final resource requirements will not be confirmed until early this year. It is anticipated that a small number of Olympic venue forces are likely to require a level of additional support, under mutual aid arrangements.

Requests for mutual aid will be co-ordinated through the Association of Chief Police Officers, Police National Information and Co-ordination Centre (ACPO PNICC) in England and Wales and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, Scottish Police Information Co-ordination Centre (ACPOS SPICC). It is expected that most police forces across the UK, including Scottish forces, will be asked to supply resources and PNICC, together with SPICC will ensure that resource requests are proportionate to the relative size and capacity of the providing force.

### Police: Surveillance

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 500W, on police: surveillance, whether elected police commissioners will have the power to authorise the use of covert techniques under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [87744]

**Nick Herbert:** No.

### Police: Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on the formation of Policing and Crime Panels in Wales to scrutinise the work of elected Police and Crime Commissioners. [88022]

**Nick Herbert:** Home Office and Welsh Government Ministers and senior officials have discussed police reform as a whole and will continue to do so where necessary. The Home Office's Police and Crime Commissioner Transition Programme includes a specific project tasked with maintaining a strategic overview of the implementation of the police reform agenda in Wales including the establishment of police and crime panels. Membership of this board includes both Home Office and Welsh Government officials as well as a range of other key Welsh partners.

### Postcodes

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84243]

**Damian Green:** Postcodes provided as part of the passport application process are used by the Identity and Passport Service to assist with workflow management, demographic market research and in managing the integrity of the passport issuing process.

Postcodes are held on UK Border Agency systems that are used to generate statistical information at the local authority level on supported asylum seekers.

The Criminal Records Bureau uses postcodes for a range of operational functions, including validating a person's identity and identifying repeat applications.

### Prevent Strategy

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what responsibilities in respect of the Prevent Strategy have been transferred from her Department to the Department for Communities and Local Government since 7 June 2011. [88426]

**James Brokenshire:** There has been no transfer of responsibilities in respect of the Prevent Strategy from the Home Office to the Department of Communities and Local Government since that date.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms she has put in place to ensure co-operation between her Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government on the Prevent Strategy. [88430]

**James Brokenshire:** Home Office Ministers have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues and my officials work closely with officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). DCLG is a member of the Prevent Sub Board which oversees the delivery of the Prevent Strategy.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding allocated to the Prevent Strategy has been transferred from her Department to the Department for Communities and Local Government during financial year 2011-12; and what such funding will be transferred in financial year 2012-13. [88431]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office has not transferred any funding related to the Prevent strategy to the Department for Communities and Local Government this financial year. We are not aware that any transfer of Prevent funding is planned for 2012-13.

### Smuggling: Tobacco

**Dr Wollaston:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on the tackling tobacco smuggling strategy in 2009-10. [83506]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency deployed an estimated 1,504 full-time equivalent staff to the tobacco strategy in 2009-10, assigned to detection and intelligence duties. Further and more detailed information on expenditure is not available. Investigation and the provision of legal advice in relation to tobacco smuggling remained the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs.

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to combat the distribution of counterfeit cigarettes in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* the east midlands. [87711]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Treasury.

The Government are committed to tackling the illicit trade in non-UK duty paid cigarettes and in April 2011 published a comprehensive new strategy for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the UK Border Agency (UKBA): "Tackling Tobacco Smuggling—building on our success". It is available online at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/tackling-tobacco.htm

This is a risk-based, intelligence-led strategy which is applied across the UK, including in Leicestershire and the east midlands. Domestically, HMRC works in collaboration with other enforcement agencies to maximise impact using the full range of powers and sanctions available, and to develop and apply joined-up approaches to localised problems of illicit activity.

### Social Justice Committee

**Michael Dugher:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings of the Social Justice Committee she has attended since its establishment. [85292]

**Damian Green:** Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Statisticians

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many statisticians *(a)* her Department employs and *(b)* are seconded to her Department by the Office for National Statistics. [88425]

**Damian Green:** As at 19 December 2011, the Home Office employed 17 professional statistical staff ranging from the Chief Statistician to Statistical Officers. In addition, the Home Office's Chief Scientific Adviser is also a statistician. One professional member of statistical staff is additionally employed in each of the Government Equalities Office and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

No professional statistical staff are on loan to the Home Office from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Three social researchers are, however, currently on loan to the Home Office Statistics Unit as part of preparations for the British Crime Survey moving to ONS in April 2012.

### Metal Theft

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 in deterring metal theft. [87223]

**James Brokenshire:** We believe that regulation of the scrap metal industry is not effective and that the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 needs to be revised. The Home Office is discussing with other Departments what legislative changes are necessary to assist enforcement agencies and deter offenders. We are also working with the Association of Chief Police Officers to establish a dedicated metal theft taskforce.

### Japan: Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in her Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87620]

**Damian Green:** Information on hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published regularly and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/non-personal-data/hospitality-business-expenses/

### Security Vetting

**Steve Brine:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to introduce annual subscription fees for volunteers who undergo portable Criminal Records Bureau checks. [87664]

**Lynne Featherstone:** We are committed to reducing the barriers to volunteering and regular Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks will remain free of charge for volunteers. The decision on whether volunteers will have to pay for the new on-line service is still under consideration.

### Security Vetting: Third Sector

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to introduce charges for Criminal Records Bureau and vetting and barring checks for volunteers in the charitable sector. [87642]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* We are committed to reducing the barriers to volunteering and regular Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks will remain free of charge for volunteers. The decision on whether volunteers will have to pay for the new on-line service is still under consideration.

### Victims: Gender Recognition

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many transgender murder victims there have been in each of the last five years. [87878]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The requested information is not collected centrally.

Tackling hate crime is an issue the Government take very seriously, and we are committed to doing more to support and protect victims.

We are meeting the coalition commitment to improve the recording of such crimes, and working with the police and other partners to encourage more victims to come forward. In line with this commitment, information on whether the offence was motivated by the victim being transgender will be collected via the Homicide Index from April 2012.

Further information on Government plans relating to transgender equality can be found in the Home Office publication 'Advancing transgender equality: a plan for action' at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/lgbt-equality-publications/transgender-action-plan?view=Binary

### Visas

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of renewing a UK visa which had been lost or stolen in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009, *(e)* 2010 and *(f)* 2011. [87850]

**Damian Green:** The cost of obtaining a replacement UK visa due to a lost or stolen passport would vary, depending on what type of visa had been granted in the first instance.

Applicants overseas are required to reapply and pay the appropriate fee to obtain a new visa. Applicants in the UK may make a transfer of conditions application. The current fee for a transfer of conditions application is £216.

The UK Border Agency has published details on fees, including the indicative unit cost for each application type for the years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Fees Regulations.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to answer Question 80509 on border controls, tabled on 8 November 2011 for named day answer on 14 November 2011; [84490]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Halton, on 7 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 54, whether *(a)* other Ministers in her Department, *(b)* the Permanent Secretary in her Department and *(c)* any officials and special advisers in the Minister's private office knew that border controls had been relaxed. [80509]

**Damian Green** *[holding answers 14 November 2011 and 5 December 2011]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the evidence provided to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 8 November 2011.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 77339, tabled on 25 October 2011 for answer on 27 October 2011, on departmental procurement. [88105]

**Damian Green:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 922-3W.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what outcomes he has specified for contractors under the Higher Apprenticeship Fund. [88710]

**Mr Hayes:** The aim of the Higher Apprenticeship Fund is to create sustainable Higher Apprenticeship places that are based on employer demand, involve education and business partnerships and that are accessible to all, especially small employers.

The National Apprenticeship Service is currently agreeing contracts with successful organisations, which will be contracted to support one or more of the following:

1. Increase employer engagement with key large employers and the small and medium-sized enterprises in their supply chains and sub sectors.
2. Build training provider capacity and capability to deliver high quality Higher Apprenticeships.
3. Accelerate development of Apprenticeship Frameworks where demand is proven.
4. Create accessible programmes that address sectoral gender and ethnicity imbalances.

Through investing in capacity and infrastructure, the fund will initially create approximately 19,000 additional Higher Apprenticeship places.

### Arms Trade

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has asked the National Security Council to discuss the arms trade treaty. [88612]

**Mr Prisk:** No.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution his Department has made to policy development on including small arms, light weapons and ammunition within the terms of the arms trade treaty. [88626]

**Mr Prisk:** Officials from this Department have been, and continue to be, actively engaged in supporting the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on all aspects of arms trade treaty policy development and strategy including on the potential scope of the treaty.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department provides *(a)* training and *(b)* detailed briefings on the arms trade treaty to staff working in overseas posts; and what steps he is taking to ensure that the treaty is raised in all relevant bilateral meetings. [88627]

**Mr Prisk:** Officials from this Department participate in a range of outreach activities organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as part of a cross-Whitehall team. The responsibility for briefing staff in overseas posts would be for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to arrange.

Officials from the Export Control Organisation have taken the opportunity to discuss the arms trade treaty with their international counterparts during a range of meetings on broader issues with which they are involved.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which representatives from his Department have attended each of the UN Preparatory Committee meetings for the international arms trade treaty; and which representatives from his Department will attend the meeting in February 2012. [88629]

**Mr Prisk:** None.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that negotiations for an arms trade treaty in 2012 include representatives from civil society and non-governmental organisations. [88630]

**Mr Prisk:** This would be a matter for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which have overall Government responsibility for the negotiations on the arms trade treaty.

### Billing

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* companies and *(b)* the public sector make timely payment of invoices to small businesses. [88639]

**Mr Davey:** Transforming the long-standing culture of late payment requires a multi-faceted strategy to engage and educate business. Key steps we are taking in respect of companies are:

encouraging big business to pay according to agreed terms through the Prompt Payment Code (www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk) and by supporting businesses to better manage customer relationships through the Institute of Credit Management's Managing Cash Flow Guides (www.creditmanagement.org.uk/bisguides.htm)

sponsoring a 'get paid day' within our wider campaign supporting 'finance fitness'

Government are also supporting businesses to manage cash flow by ensuring they pays their own bills on time:

establishing the public sector as a payment exemplar with a commitment that central Departments pay 80% of invoices within five days and that main suppliers must pay contractors within 30 days. BIS achieved 95.5% in November 2011.

Additionally, the Government are preparing for the transposition of the recast EU late payment directive into UK law by 16 March 2013. The directive essentially mirrors current UK legislation.

### Business Regulation

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the cost to business resulting from the commencement of the Bribery Act 2011 have been *(a)* subject to the Regulatory Policy Committee's impact assessment validation process and *(b)* included in the Second Statement of New Regulation. [87823]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Justice.

The consideration of the impact of the legislation (the Bribery Bill) that received Royal Assent as the Bribery Act in April 2010 *(a)* pre-dated the establishment of the Regulatory Policy Committee and *(b)* did not fall within the scope of the Second Statement of New Regulation. An impact assessment was published by the then Secretary of State for Justice upon the introduction of the Bribery Bill in November 2009.

### Business: Loans

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 293W, on banks: loans, if he will have such discussions. [84360]

**Mr Davey:** The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), is not currently planning to hold such discussions. The Joint Money Laundering Steering Group, an industry association, produces guidance on how financial services firms should interpret rules on identity checks, as set out in the UK money laundering regulations.

### Conditions of Employment

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to protect workers' employment rights. [87914]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is leading a cross-Government review into all aspects of employment-related law that will last the length of this Parliament. Our aim is to ensure that the balance between business confidence, economic growth and fairness to employees is right. Making employers more confident about taking on new staff will lead to a healthier labour market and more jobs for employees. We are not in the business of removing important protections. In fact, we plan to reform the law to help people juggle their commitments at work with their responsibilities at home. We are also reviewing our compliance and enforcement arrangements to see if there is scope to make them more efficient and effective.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to protect the rights of workers who are faced with redundancy; and whether he plans to change such rights. [87915]

**Mr Davey:** No new regulations in relation to redundancy are currently planned. However, on 23 November 2011 we launched a Call for Evidence on the operation of the rules on collective redundancy consultation, to establish whether changes are needed. Any change prompted by the call for evidence would aim to establish a regime that balances the need for business flexibility with fair treatment for employees. This would need to take into account the impact on employees, both in terms of morale (as a result of long periods of time between the end of consultation and redundancies taking effect) and in relation to access to future employment or training. After the Call for Evidence closes on 31 January 2012, we will carefully consider the responses received and formally consult on any recommendations for change that we consider necessary.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the level of protection for the labour force; and what information his Department holds on the level of protection afforded to the labour force in other EU member states. [87916]

**Mr Davey:** A key driver of the UK's strong performance is the flexibility of our labour market. The labour market, like other markets, needs a framework of rules and, as with other European Union member states, those rules have to comply with minimum standards agreed in Europe. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the UK has one of the most efficient labour markets among developed countries. But we can do more, and through the Red Tape Challenge we are giving the public an opportunity to comment on how EU legislation has been implemented in the UK, so that we can review any instances of 'gold-plating', where the UK has gone beyond the minimum required by EU legislation.

### Copyright: Electronic Publishing

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to protect authors' rights from the risk of piracy relating to *(a)* e-books and *(b)* other digital technology. [87712]

**Mr Davey:** The Government remain committed to implementation of the online infringement of copyright provisions within the Digital Economy Act, 2010, which will benefit publishers and authors of e-books as well as other producers of digital material.

The Department is also working with industry to look at other ways in which sites dedicated to making copyright material available illegally can be made less attractive and more difficult to find inadvertently. This work includes facilitating cooperation between rights holder and online service providers, while ensuring that consumers are treated fairly and can be assured that they are acting within the law.

We are also working to make access to enforcement mechanisms for intellectual property cases easier and cheaper through reforms to the Patents County Court.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff posts have been removed in his Department since June 2010; in which areas; what assessment he has made of the effect of the removal of posts on his Department's policy areas; whether any policy areas within his Department were exempt from the removal of posts; and if he will make a statement. [88709]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has reduced the number of staff on its payroll by 611 since June 2010. This has been accompanied by an organisational restructure. Alongside the restructure the Department has undertaken change and building capability programmes. These have focused on increasing effectiveness by enabling the Department to operate in a way that is more flexible, skilled, innovative, focused on priority activities, connected and open. While challenging, the changes have been delivered with no significant diminution of performance in terms of policy development or service to Ministers. The staff reductions and restructure apply to the Department, excluding agencies and UK Trade and Investment.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 816-7W, on Third Sector, for what reasons *(a)* Tate Britain, *(b)* the National Foundation for Education, *(c)* the Royal Anniversary Trust and *(d)* Natural England received funding from his Department in 2010-11 but not in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [88685]

**Mr Willetts:** The payments to the organisations in 2010-11 were made under programmes which were either time-limited or which do not attract funding on an annual basis and which were directly financed by the Department. The figures for 2011-12 represent allocations to date. The relevant organisations will still be eligible in some cases to make proposals for funding to our partner organisations.

## Economics, Strategy and Better Regulation Directorate

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding over £100,000 his Department's Economics, Strategy and Better Regulation Directorate allocated to partner organisations in 2010-11; how much it plans to allocate to partner organisations in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [88335]

**Mr Prisk:** The Economics, Strategy and Better Regulation Group (ESBR) was formed in 2011/12 and therefore did not allocate any resources to partner organisations in 2010/11.

The group ESBR have a single partner organisation, the Local Better Regulation Office. In the current financial year 2011/12, it was provided with a total budget of £3,254,000, £3,112,000 of which constituted direct grant in aid, broken down into £2,233,000 programme and £879,000 in administration. The remainder was non-cash provisions of £142,000, again broken down into £122,000 in administration non-cash and £20,000 in programme non-cash.

## Green Investment Bank

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) when he expects borrowing powers to be granted to the Green Investment Bank; [87852]

(2) what his policy is on the borrowing powers for the Green Investment Bank. [87853]

**Mr Prisk:** The Green Investment Bank (GIB) is being capitalised to an extent that it will not need to borrow before 2015. The GIB will be given borrowing powers in 2015 subject to public sector net debt falling as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) and state aid approval having been granted. GIB borrowing will score against the national debt and controls will be needed so that GIB borrowing can be managed effectively. The level of borrowing will be considered in the future, taking into account investment opportunities and fiscal affordability.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Autumn Statement, what recent assessment he has made of the ability of the Green Investment Bank to facilitate the critical infrastructure investment originally planned for 2015; and if he will make a statement. [87854]

**Mr Prisk:** Good progress is being made. We are on track for the Green Investment Bank to be operational in September 2012. Ahead of obtaining state aid approval for the Bank, the Government will invest in green infrastructure projects from April 2012, including up to £100 million in non-domestic energy efficiency and £100 million in smaller waste infrastructure projects.

## Higher Education: Admissions

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has carried out an impact assessment on the effects of any reduction of the widening participation premium. [88114]

**Mr Willetts:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is responsible for determining the level of funding made available through the widening participation premium. In June, we asked HEFCE to consult on the operation of the teaching grant for 2013/14 and beyond. HEFCE will launch this consultation, early next year. We will confirm our priorities for teaching funding in future years, in the usual way, in the grant letter for the year.

An Impact Assessment was published in June 2011 providing an analysis of the proposed changes in the Higher Education White Paper "Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the System". This impact assessment is available at:

http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/hereform/all-documents/

A separate impact assessment was not published for widening participation premium.

## Local Enterprise Partnerships

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the operational capacity of local enterprise partnerships in 2011-12. [87919]

**Mr Prisk:** I undertake regular visits to local enterprise partnerships (LEP) across England and periodically review progress. I attended the Coventry and Warwickshire partnership's annual meeting in October.

The 39th and most recent LEP only received approval to form, from myself and the Minister for Decentralisation and Cities, Department for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), on 21 December. LEPs now cover very nearly 100% of England in terms of both population and businesses. They are inevitably at different stages in their development, but have made good overall progress in the establishment of their priorities and early delivery against them, supported by initial seed-corn funding of £6 million from the BIS Capacity and Start-Up Funds.

## Manufacturing Industries: Government Assistance

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's announcement of 6 December 2011 on the advanced manufacturing supply chain initiative, whether the offer of apprenticeships to young people will be a criterion for assessing bids for funding. [88667]

**Mr Prisk:** The Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative aims to help existing UK supply chains grow and achieve world class standards while encouraging major new suppliers to come and manufacture here. The new fund will support innovative projects in established UK advanced manufacturing sectors and target newer growth areas where the UK is well placed to take a global lead. The competitive fund will invite applications this year. Further information on criteria, funding and other arrangements concerning the initiative will also be available this year.

### Overseas Trade

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK exporters have received commercial export finance facilities through the Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee since it was established. [88750]

**Mr Prisk:** The Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee (ExEFG) was launched as a pilot in April 2011, as part of a menu of extra help for exporters which includes four schemes provided by the Exports Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD). To date, ExEFG has helped facilitate short term export finance facilities for six exporters, with total lending of £3.012 million.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is conducting a joint review with the Exports Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) on the operation of the menu of products. The results of the review will be published in the second quarter of 2012.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department expects to publish a review of the first six months of operation of the Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee. [88751]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is conducting a joint review with the Exports Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) on the operation of the menu of products for exporters announced in the Trade and Investment White Paper, including Export Enterprise Finance Guarantee (ExEFG). The results of the review will be published in the second quarter of 2012.

### Public Houses

**Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have visited any (i) pubs and (ii) breweries as guests of pub companies since May 2010. [88191]

**Mr Davey:** No Ministers in the Department have visited any pubs or breweries as guests of pub companies since May 2010.

**Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which representatives of pub companies *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have met since May 2010; and what the date and location was of each such meeting. [88192]

**Mr Davey:** I am the only Minister in the Department to have had meetings with representatives of pub companies since May 2010. I have had the following meetings:

| *Date* | *Minister* | *Attendees* | *Location* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 February 2011 | Edward Davey | Brigid Simmonds, Chief Executive British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) | BIS |
| 12 October 2011 | Edward Davey | Brigid Simmonds, British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA); Ralph Findlay (BBPA and Marston's); Simon Townsend (Enterprise Inns); Roger Whiteside (Punch Taverns) | BIS |
| 3 November 2011 | Edward Davey | Simon Longbottom (Greene King); Paul Wells (Independent Family Brewers of Britain and Charles Wells); Jonathan Neame (Shepherd Neame); Stuart Bateman (Bateman's); William Lees-Jones (JW Lees); David Turner (Young's) | BIS |
| 1 December 2011 | Edward Davey | Brigid Simmonds, British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA); Ralph Findlay (BBPA and Marston's) | BIS |

**Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has changed his policy on codes of practice in relation to pub companies from that which he stated at the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee on 20 July 2010; and for what reason any such change was made. [88691]

**Mr Davey:** I have always believed that action is necessary in this area. I have carefully considered what type of action was most appropriate and believe the policy set out on 24 November 2011 in the Government response to the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee's report on pub companies will deliver reforms that will make a real difference for licensees quickly and effectively.

### Regional Growth Fund

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Regional Growth Fund. [87918]

**Mr Prisk:** The Regional Growth Fund has made conditional allocations to companies and organisations to the value of £1.4 billion. A further £1 billion will be invested over the course of the spending period and we are confident that the fund will support 500,000 jobs in total. At this very early stage in this programme it is expected to unlock £5 of private sector investment for every £1 of public sector funding invested.

### Southampton Port

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Marine Management Office, *(b)* the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(c)* other stakeholders on the proposed redevelopment of the Port of Southampton; and if he will make a statement. [87855]

**Mr Prisk:** Neither I nor my officials have held discussions with the Marine Management Organisation on this matter. BIS officials have been in touch with officials from the Department for Transport and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to understand the nature of the issues that are affecting the proposed redevelopment at Southampton and the scope for possible solutions. These discussions are continuing.

I welcome the proposed capacity enhancements at Southampton and other UK ports. Ports are a vital part of the UK's infrastructure, offering excellent connectivity and one of the lowest lead times to import in Europe. Continuing investment in deep water port capacity is needed to underpin both overseas trade and domestic growth and employment. As with any development, these investments needs to take place in accordance with legal requirements, including environmental protection, and in a manner that maintains fair competition.

### Stamp Duties: Tax Avoidance

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what advice his Department provides to *(a)* small business estate agents and *(b)* other small businesses considering promoting the legal avoidance of stamp duty on property sales through company structures. [88565]

**Mr Prisk:** Small business estate agents can find an overview of the rules, regulation and general best practice estate agents must follow via the 'Your Business Sector' on the Business Link website at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

The Department does not provide advice on tax-related matters; however, we will direct any enquiries to the appropriate information on the Business Link website, developed by HMRC. This includes basic information on stamp duty, reliefs or exemptions and how to apply, alongside details of the stamp taxes helpline on the HMRC website.

### Students: Loans

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the level of bad debts experienced by the Student Loans Company in each of the last five years. [85525]

**Mr Hayes:** The mortgage style and income contingent (IC) student loan debt written off by the Student Loans Company (SLC) in the last five years is set out in the following table:

*£ million*

| | Financial year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Total amount cancelled or written off during the financial year | 5.5 | 7.6 | 28.7 | 16.7 | 15.8 |
| Because of death[1] | 2.7 | 1.6 | 15.6 | 6.1 | 6.0 |
| Because of age | 2.4 | 3.4 | 5.4 | 7.6 | 8.4 |
| Because of disability[1] | 0.4 | 0.5 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Because of bankruptcy[2] | [3]— | 1.9 | 5.0 | 1.4 | [3]— |
| On completion of individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA)[2] | [3]— | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | [3]— |
| Trivial balances | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |
| Other | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— |

[1] The functionality for processing cancellations on IC loans due to death and disability was put in place in 2008-09. A number of such write-offs dating back to previous financial years have been processed and are included in the 2008-09 figures.

[2] The functionality for processing write-offs due to bankruptcy and on completion of an Individual Voluntary Arrangement was put in place in 2007-08. A number of such write-offs dating back to previous financial years have been processed and are included in the 2008-09 figures. After July 2004 for Mortgage Style loans and September 2004 for Income-Contingent loans, student loans have not been written off as a result of the customer becoming bankrupt. From April 2010, all student loans are exempt from Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVA). The amount of loan written off in the table above for financial year 2006-07 to 2010-11 and 2010-11 for IVA, are for those customers who petitioned for their loans to be written off prior to the change in regulations.

[3] Nil or negligible.

*Note:*
Figures may not add to total due to rounding.
*Source:*
Student Loans Company (SLC)

Figures on loan amounts written off are published each year by the SLC in the National Statistics publication Student Loans for Higher Education in England. The publication includes separate figures for Income Contingent and Mortgage Style loans. The latest version of this publication can be found at following address:

http://www.slc.co.uk/media/76986/slcsfr022011.pdf

### Working Hours: EU Law

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the total annual cost to UK businesses of EU Working Time Regulations. [87743]

**Mr Davey:** The EU working time directive is given effect in the UK through the Working Time Regulations. At the time the regulations were amended in 2002, annual costs of compliance were estimated at £2.6 billion per annum.

In 2007 when the amount of annual leave was extended by eight days (making the four weeks' minimum paid annual leave requirement of the directive additional to time off for UK bank and public holidays) the estimated annual policy cost of this increase in leave entitlement was between £3.3 and £4 billion. It was also estimated that employers would face an additional annual administrative cost of £43 million.

Information obligations relating to the working time directive were estimated to amount to an administrative cost to business of £43.85 million per annum by the "Employment Law Admin Burdens Survey 2008". All other costs referred to above have been estimated as applying across the whole economy rather than specific to the business sector.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 9 November 2011 concerning Ms H. Valentino. [87651]

**Mr Davey:** The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills my right hon. Friend the Member for Havant (Mr Willetts) responded to this letter on 20 December 2011.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Advertising: Education

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what support she has given to the Media Smart programme; and how she plans to assess the value for money of that support. [87796]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government launched a teaching pack for primary schools on body image in conjunction with Media Smart in September 2011. Media Smart is funded entirely by donor companies and operates on a not-for-profit basis. It specialises in providing teaching resources to primary schools to help children's media literacy.

The Government did not give any financial support to Media Smart to develop this teaching pack. Government officials in my department did provide advice to Media Smart regarding the development of materials and press support with the launch.

An evaluation to determine the reach and effectiveness of the body image lesson is scheduled to be assessed in summer 2012 by Media Smart.

### Barristers: Females

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the effect of the reduction of legal aid work on the number of women barristers entering the profession; and if she will make a statement. [88706]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities, the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), meets regularly with ministerial colleagues, including the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), and others, in order to discuss matters of policy.

Issues relating to legal aid reform are a matter for the Secretary of State for Justice, and the specific levels of representation within given practice areas at the Bar and the solicitors' profession, are primarily the responsibility of the Bar and the Law Society, as is the need to ensure equality of opportunity in all areas of practice.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what equality impact assessments she has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88583]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Home Office considers equality issues in exercising its functions, to comply with equality legislation and to ensure it understands how its activities will affect different people. It provides information about this consideration in various ways. In the specified period, this information was sometimes published in the form of an equality impact assessment, although there has never been a legal requirement to produce such a document. The Government Equalities Office published 11 such documents during the period. These are available on the Home Office website.

### Equal Opportunities

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of which three professions open to both women and men have the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest representation of women. [88679]

**Lynne Featherstone:** All professions are open to both women and men. Of the 11 major professional occupations identified by the Standard Occupational Classification, women have the highest representation among teaching professionals, public service professionals, and librarians and related professionals. Women have the lowest representation among engineering professionals, information and communication technology professionals, and architects, town planners and surveyors.[1]

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[1] *Source:*

Annual Population Survey, ONS, January to December 2010, UK.

| *Professional occupation* | *Percentage of those employed who are female* |
|---|---|
| Science | 42 |
| Engineering | 7 |
| Information and Communication Technology | 12 |
| Health | 51 |
| Teaching | 68 |
| Research | 52 |
| Legal | 43 |
| Business and Statistical | 35 |
| Architects, Town Planners, Surveyors | 14 |
| Public Service | 58 |
| Librarians and Related | 69 |

*Source:*
Annual Population Survey, ONS, January to December 2010, UK.

### Equality and Human Rights Commission: Finance

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 836W to the hon.

Member for North West Durham, on Government Equalities Office: Finance, what the budget allocation for the Equality and Human Rights Commission is in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what proportion of that budget will be allocated to the *(a)* administration budget and *(b)* programme budget in each year. [86044]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 12 December 2011]*: Following the Government's spending review, we announced that we would be reducing the Equality and Human Rights Commission's (EHRC) budget by over half, from £55 million in 2010-11 to £26 million in 2014-15.

The current budget for 2011-12 is £48,827,000. This includes *(a)* an administration budget of £36,827,000 and *(b)* a programme budget of £9,900,000.

The EHRC's budget allocation for 2012-13 and beyond has not been set. As is standard practice as part of the annual financial planning cycle, my officials are in discussion with the EHRC to agree its budget for 2012-13.

## TRANSPORT

### Community Transport

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how local communities can access the funds her Department has made available to promote community transport; and if she will make a statement. [88655]

**Norman Baker:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made to the House on 8 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 58-59WS.

The funding will be distributed to 76 local authorities in England, outside London, by formula. This is a repeat of the Supporting Community Transport Fund announced in March 2011. As with the first payment, we would expect local authorities to work with their communities to help decide how best to use this funding.

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* those bodies for which her Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if she will make a statement. [88596]

**Norman Baker:** We will support the work of the Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and Co-operatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

The Mutuals Taskforce has recently indicated it will play a co-ordinating role for Departments to support the international year, with Co-operatives UK leading the taskforce's work in this area.

### Crossrail

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the coalition agreement, what recent progress she has made in supporting *(a)* Crossrail and *(b)* further electrification of the rail network. [87504]

**Mrs Villiers:** Great progress has been made on the Crossrail project this year. Tunnelling preparations are under way with the first tunnel portal now complete. The first tunnel boring machine is currently undergoing factory testing and full tunnelling is due to commence in spring 2012. A Tunnelling and Underground Construction Academy to support this work has opened in Ilford, and welcomed its first students in the autumn.

Enabling works are well under way at Paddington, Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road, Farringdon, Liverpool Street and Whitechapel. The excavation of the first Crossrail station at Canary Wharf is nearing completion. Major construction contracts have recently been awarded for Farringdon and Whitechapel stations.

The Department has confirmed electrification of the Lancashire Triangle by 2016 and the Great Western Main Line between London, Oxford, Newbury, Bristol and Cardiff by 2017. More recently, the Department has supported Network Rail's procurement of major capital items such as National Grid connections and the High Output Plant that will lead to the efficient delivery of the programme and which have longer delivery times.

The Autumn Statement announced support for North TransPennine electrification between York, Leeds and Manchester.

### Correspondence

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many letters from hon. Members to each Minister in her Department have not received a response since May 2010. [87490]

**Norman Baker:** In the period May 2010 to 16 December 2011, the Department's Ministers received 16,974 items of correspondence from MPs. At 16 December, 1,083 letters of these had not yet received a response.

This figure includes correspondence recently received, which is within the Department's target date for response. It excludes inter-departmental correspondence between Government Ministers, and correspondence which was transferred because it was more appropriate for another Department to respond.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 667-8W, on departmental written questions, what the question number is of each question for written answer answered after more than 30 sitting days. [88147]

**Norman Baker:** The Unique Identification Numbers of the questions are: 16176, 16244, 17160, 19146, 19582, 24051, 24052, 24053, 24054, 25533, 32418, 32419, 35201, 37255, 37752, 46399, 46340, 46341, 46856, 46999, 47004, 47022, 49937, 49945, 56025, 61365, 61367, 63964 and 75167.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

### Electrification: Greater London

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* Transport for London on electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak section of the London Overground; and if she will make a statement. [88382]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has had no such discussions.

### Invalid Vehicles: Accidents

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involved a Pride Colt 8 mobility scooter in each of the last three years; and whether mechanical failure was a contributory fact in any such accident. [88080]

**Norman Baker:** No national statistics are recorded concerning accidents involving mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. From 2013, the police will be able to record whether a mobility vehicle has been involved in an accident on the public highway.

### Invalid Vehicles: Safety

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the *(a)* Pride Colt 8 mobility scooter and *(b)* other mobility scooters designed for road use are required to have width-indicating side lights. [88081]

**Norman Baker:** All Class 3 mobility vehicles (which includes the Pride Colt 8 model) are required to have a minimum of front direction lamp, direction indicators, hazard warning lights, two rear position lamps, rear retro reflectors if being used on the road. In addition they are required to have an amber warning beacon if being used on dual carriageways. There is no specific requirement for width indicating side lights.

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has commissioned any independent safety checks on the Pride Colt 8 mobility scooter. [88083]

**Norman Baker:** The Department has not commissioned any safety checks on any model of mobility vehicle.

### Network Rail: Level Crossings

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Network Rail regarding level crossings. [88187]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), meets regularly with Network Rail to discuss a range of issues. Within the high level objectives set by the Secretary of State, operational decisions regarding the rail network including those relating to level crossings remain the responsibility of Network Rail.

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department provides guidance to Network Rail on the maximum acceptable time for a level crossing to be closed to road traffic in any one *(a)* hour, *(b)* day and *(c)* night. [88188]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department does not provide guidance to Network Rail on this issue and there is no legal restriction on the time that a level crossing can be closed to road traffic.

However, the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) does provide guidance to the rail industry on the operation of level crossings and on level crossing orders. Those orders can contain convenience or safety-related provisions for both road and rail level crossing users. The order making process is also managed by ORR.

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken, or has encouraged Network Rail to take, to improve safety at railway level crossings. [88189]

**Mrs Villiers:** Safety at level crossings is a matter for the relevant railway safety duty holder. These duty holders such as Network Rail have a legal obligation to reduce risks at level crossings so far as is reasonably practicable.

It is the responsibility of the Office of Rail Regulation to monitor that railway duty holders meet those obligations, and to take enforcement action to secure improvements as necessary. Additionally, the Rail Accident Investigation Branch has also investigated a number of previous level crossing incidents and directed recommendations to improve safety to Network Rail.

The current level safety crossing record is consistently one of the best in Europe and 2010-11 saw the least fatalities at level crossings in the last decade. In view of that record and the robust industry safety framework under which level cross risk is managed, we do not consider additional intervention from the Department is needed.

### Ports: Greater London

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, what the total planned public expenditure on the development of London Gateway Port Terminal is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project. [88500]

**Robert Neill:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

There is no planned public expenditure on the London Gateway port terminal in the years 2011-17. DP World announced on 4 October 2011 that the port will open in the 4th quarter of 2013.

### Railway Stations: Greater London

**Mr Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to increase the number of stations on the London Liverpool Street to Enfield Town line with ticketing barriers; and if she will make a statement. [88399]

**Norman Baker:** The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has no plans to increase the number of stations on the London Liverpool Street to Enfield Town line with ticketing barriers. This is a matter for the train operator if a business case to install gates can be made.

### Railway Stations: Manpower

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 422W, on railway stations: manpower, if she will *(a)* collect the information requested on employment of station staff and *(b)* place a copy of the information in the Library. [88126]

**Mrs Villiers:** There are no plans to collect this information.

### Railways: East Anglia

**Mr Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effects of reduction in the fleet size arising from the awarding of the Greater Anglia franchise on train services on the *(a)* London Liverpool Street to Enfield Town line and *(b)* Brimsdown to London King's Cross line; and if she will make a statement. [88397]

**Mrs Villiers:** Abellio, the new operator of the Greater Anglia franchise, presented plans in its bid for the franchise to operate the required train service through the daily deployment of 232 four-car electric multiple units (EMUs) out of a total fleet size of 251 units. The incumbent operator deploys 236 out of a fleet of 260 units to run the same train service.

Abellio has identified a small number of individual train services that are operating today with capacity significantly in excess of the forecast passenger loadings and on which the number of carriages can therefore be reduced. Some of these services are in the 'West Anglia Inner' service group.

This is exactly the sort of efficiency initiative that is needed to drive down the cost of operation of our railway network.

**Mr Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effects on *(a)* the timetabling of and *(b)* potential overcrowding on trains as a result of the decision to reduce the fleet size on the new Greater Anglia franchise; and if she will make a statement. [88398]

**Mrs Villiers:** The timetable will not change in the new Greater Anglia franchise so a timetable assessment of the fleet size was not necessary. The operator will have a fleet size which is smaller than the current National Express East Anglia franchise. This will not mean that overcrowding is materially worse than it is today. Where a customer is currently able to find a seat, they will continue to be able to do so.

### River Thames: Bridges

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding she has allocated to new river crossings in London. [87483]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government will work with the Mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL) to explore options for a river crossing at Silvertown. The Department for Transport already allocates a Transport Grant to Transport for London to support investment in London's transport network. Under devolution it is for the Mayor and TfL to determine transport spending priorities in London.

### Severn Bridges Act 1992

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had on bringing forward proposals to amend the Severn Bridges Act 1992 to increase tolls according to the consumer prices index. [87746]

**Mike Penning:** The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has had no discussions on amending the Severn Bridges Act to increase tolls according to the consumer price index.

### Transport: Planned Public Expenditure

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, (1) what the *(a)* total planned public expenditure and *(b)* estimated month and year of completion is for the Leeds Inner Relief Road Maintenance; [87845]

(2) what the *(a)* total planned public expenditure and *(b)* estimated month and year of completion is for Elmbridge Transport (Gloucester); [87846]

(3) what the *(a)* total planned public expenditure and *(b)* estimated month and year of completion is for Darlaston (Walsall); [87847]

(4) what the *(a)* total planned public expenditure and *(b)* estimated month and year of completion is for the Croxley Rail Link (Watford); [87848]

(5) what the *(a)* total planned public expenditure and *(b)* estimated month and year of completion is for the Loughborough Town Centre Transport Scheme. [87849]

**Norman Baker:** The information requested is as follows:

| *Scheme* | *Planned total public expenditure (£ million)* | *Estimated completion date* |
|---|---|---|
| Leeds Inner Relief Road Maintenance | 25.0 | November 2014 |
| Elmbridge Transport (Gloucester) | 15.1 | June 2015 |
| Darlaston (Walsall) | 24.9 | June 2015 |
| Croxley Rail Link (Watford) | 112.4 | January 2016 |
| Loughborough Town Centre Transport Scheme | 16.3 | March 2015 |

The total public expenditure figures include the planned contributions from the Department for Transport, the local authority promoters and any other public sector bodies.

Funding for these schemes was announced on 14 December 2011. Details of these and the other local authority major transport schemes announced on the same day are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/local-major-transport-scheme-decisions

Scheme costs in the published table may include private sector contributions and therefore may not match the above figures.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the total planned public expenditure is on the North Fringe to Hengrove bus rapid transit system in Bristol; and in which month of which year she expects it to be completed; [88130]

(2) what the total planned public expenditure is on the Morpeth Northern Bypass; and in which month of which year she expects it to be completed; [88131]

(3) what the total planned public expenditure is on the Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme; and in which month of which year she expects it to be completed; [88132]

(4) what the total planned public expenditure is on the Norwich Northern Distributor Road; and in which month of which year she expects it to be completed; [88134]

(5) what the total planned public expenditure is on the Nottingham Ring Road; and in which month of which year she expects it to be completed. [88135]

**Norman Baker:** The information requested is as follows:

| *Scheme* | *Planned total public expenditure (£ million)* | *Estimated completion date* |
|---|---|---|
| North Fringe to Hengrove Bus Rapid Transit | 78.9 | December 2016 |
| Morpeth Northern Bypass | 21.1 | October 2015 |
| Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme | 17.2 | August 2014 |
| Norwich Northern Distributor Road | 111.1 | March 2017 |
| Nottingham Ring Road | 16.0 | September 2015 |

The total public expenditure figures include the planned contributions from the Department for Transport, the local authority promoters and any other public sector bodies.

Funding for these schemes was announced on 14 December 2011. Details of these and the other local authority major transport schemes announced on the same day are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/local-major-transport-scheme-decisions

Scheme costs in the published table may include private sector contributions and therefore may not match the above figures.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, (1) what the total planned public expenditure on the Luton Town Centre Transport scheme is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88455]

(2) what the total planned public expenditure on the Loughborough Town Centre Transport scheme is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88456]

(3) what the total planned public expenditure on the Leeds Inner Relief Road maintenance is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88457]

(4) what the total planned public expenditure on Elmbridge Transport (Gloucester) is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88458]

(5) what the total planned public expenditure on Darlaston (Walsall) is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88459]

(6) what the total planned public expenditure on the Croxley Rail Link (Watford) is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88460]

(7) what the total planned public expenditure on the Coventry-Nuneaton Rail Upgrade is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88461]

(8) what the total planned public expenditure on Chester Road (Birmingham) is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88462]

(9) what the total planned public expenditure on the Camborne-Poole-Redruth Transport Package is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88463]

(10) what the total planned public expenditure on the Beverley Integrated Transport Plan is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88464]

(11) what the total planned public expenditure on the Bath Transportation Package is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88465]

(12) what the total planned public expenditure on the Hucknall town centre improvement scheme is in the financial year *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17 and beyond; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88467]

(13) what the total planned public expenditure on the London Road Bridge in Derby is in the financial year *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17 and beyond; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88468]

(14) what the total planned public expenditure on the A45 westbound bridge (Solihull) is in the financial year *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17 and beyond; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88469]

(15) what the total planned public expenditure on the Worcester Transport Strategy is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88470]

(16) what the total planned public expenditure on the Weston Package is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88471]

(17) what the total planned public expenditure on the South Yorkshire Bus Rapid Transit Phase 1 (Sheffield/Rotherham) scheme is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88472]

(18) what the total planned public expenditure on for the Pennine Reach (East Lancashire Rapid Transit) scheme is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17 and beyond; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88473]

(19) what the total planned public expenditure on Evesham Bridge Maintenance is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17 and beyond; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88474]

(20) what the total planned public expenditure on for the Kingskerwell Bypass (Devon/Torbay) is in the financial year *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17 and beyond; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88475]

(21) what the total planned public expenditure on the Nottingham Ring Road is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88476]

(22) what the total planned public expenditure on for the Norwich Northern Distributor Road is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88477]

(23) what the total planned public expenditure on the North Fringe to Hengrove Bus Rapid Transit (Bristol) scheme is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88478]

(24) what the total planned public expenditure on the Morpeth Northern Bypass is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88479]

(25) what the total planned public expenditure on the Northern Road Bridge in Portsmouth is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88481]

(26) what the total planned public expenditure on the South Bristol Link phase 1 and 2 is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88482]

(27) what the total planned public expenditure on the Bus Rapid Transit between Ashton Vale to Bristol Temple Meads is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88483]

(28) what the total planned public expenditure on Supertram additional vehicles (Sheffield) is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88484]

(29) what the total planned public expenditure on the Lincoln eastern bypass is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88485]

(30) what the total planned public expenditure on the Leeds Rail Growth scheme is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88486]

(31) what the total planned public expenditure on the Access York Park and Ride scheme is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88487]

(32) what the total planned public expenditure on the A6182 White Rose Way Improvement scheme in Doncaster is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88488]

(33) what the total planned public expenditure on the A18-A180 Link (North East Lincolnshire) is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88489]

(34) what the total planned public expenditure on the A164 from Humber Bridge to Beverley is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88490]

(35) what the total planned public expenditure for the A684 Bedale-Aiskew-Leeming Bar bypass is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88491]

(36) what the total planned public expenditure for the Crewe Green Link southern section is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88492]

(37) what the total planned public expenditure on the Manchester Cross City Bus is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88493]

(38) what the total planned public expenditure on the Rochdale interchange is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88494]

(39) what the total planned public expenditure on the A43 Corby link road is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88495]

(40) what the total planned public expenditure on the Tipner Interchange in Portsmouth is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88510]

(41) what the total planned public expenditure on the Sunderland Strategic Corridor is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project. [88571]

**Norman Baker:** The level of public expenditure per year on the schemes mentioned, as proposed by the local authorities, is as set out on the relevant Best and Final Funding Bid forms that they submitted. The forms are available through the following link:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/interoperability/final-funding-bids.pdf

For those schemes that the Government have now approved, the planned public expenditure is as proposed on the forms, with the following exceptions:

The bids for A684 Bedale Aiskew and Leeming Bar bypass and Manchester Cross City Bus included elements of contingency (or optimism bias) of £7.923 million and £11.272 million respectively which we do not consider to be planned expenditure.

The estimated cost, and therefore the planned expenditure, for Morpeth Northern bypass has been subsequently revised by the promoters to £30.105 million.

A further private sector contribution of £0.432 million has been identified for the Worcester Integrated Transport Strategy, thereby reducing the planned public sector expenditure to £19.118 million.

There may be additional elements of local authority expenditure on any of these schemes which were not included on the forms as they are outside the Department's definition of eligible scheme costs.

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, (1) what the total planned public expenditure on the Taunton Northern inner distributor road is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88503]

(2) what the total planned public expenditure on the A57 M1 to Todwick Crossroads improvements on the A57 is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88504]

(3) what the total planned public expenditure on the Heysham to M6 link road is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88505]

(4) what the total planned public expenditure on the East of Exeter improvements to Junction 29 of the M5 is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88506]

(5) what the total planned public expenditure on the Mansfield Public Transport Interchange is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88507]

(6) what the total planned public expenditure on the Midland Metro extension is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88508]

(7) what the total planned public expenditure on the Leeds Station southern access is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88509]

(8) what the *(a)* total planned public expenditure and *(b)* estimated month and year of completion is for the Ipswich Fit for the 21st Century scheme; [88540]

(9) what the *(a)* total planned public expenditure and *(b)* estimated month and year of completion is for the Thornton to Switch Island Link. [88541]

**Norman Baker:** The planned public expenditure, per annum, on the schemes mentioned is as set out in the following table:

*Planned public expenditure*

*£ million*

| *Scheme name* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* | *2015-16* | *2016-17* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A57 M1 to Todwick Crossroads improvements | — | 7.1 | 7.7 | — | — | — |
| East of Exeter improvements | 7.3 | 3.9 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | — |
| Heysham to M6 link road | 2.2 | 2.2 | 54.1 | 43.4 | 26.0 | 0.7 |
| Ipswich Fit for the 21st Century | 1.4 | 9.6 | 9.2 | 0.7 | — | — |
| Leeds Station southern access | 1.0 | 0.5 | 11.7 | 1.2 | — | — |
| Mansfield Public Transport Interchange | 1.2 | 5.5 | 1.4 | — | — | — |
| Midland Metro extension | 6.3 | 29.1 | 34.7 | 34.5 | 6.1 | — |
| Taunton Northern inner distributor road | 0.2 | 8.9 | 6.4 | 1.1 | — | — |
| Thornton to Switch Island Link | 0.6 | 2.6 | 10.6 | 3.2 | 0.0 | — |

The figures in the table include the planned contributions from the Department for Transport, the local authority promoters and any other public sector bodies.

There may be additional elements of local authority expenditure on these schemes which are not included in the table as they are outside the Department's definition of eligible scheme costs.

### Transport: Weather

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to deal with severe weather in the winter of 2011-12. [88559]

**Norman Baker:** The Department has been working with public and private sector organisations, across the various transport modes, to boost resilience and preparedness for winter weather.

Salt stocks currently stand at over 2.7 million tonnes—a million more than last year—and all transport modes have refined and promoted their operational command and control procedures to improve their response to severe weather.

Last month the Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), announced £16 million of investment in our rail infrastructure to help keep trains moving in snow and ice this winter, which is part of a £38 million industry spending programme to make sure the rail network is better prepared for severe bad weather this time. Network Rail and the train operating companies have also taken a number of steps to improve the implementation of contingency timetables, and the provision of information to passengers during disruption.

Heathrow and Gatwick airports have made significant investments in additional snow and ice clearance capacity, and in staff numbers available for snow clearance, with Heathrow committing over £30 million to date and Gatwick investing £8 million.

Severe cold weather will always cause some disruption but the actions taken will ensure that the country's transport systems are better equipped to cope with them.

### Underground Railways: Greater London

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to allocate funding to the proposed extension of the Northern Line from Kennington to Nine Elms; and whether Transport for London and partner authorities will be able to borrow funds to fund the proposed extension. [87484]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport allocates a Transport Grant to Transport for London to support investment in London's transport network. However, under devolution it is for the Mayor and TfL, to determine transport spending priorities in London.

The Government announced their support for the extension of the Northern line to Battersea on 29 November 2011, subject to commitment by April 2013 from a developer to contribute to and develop the site.

To encourage a developer to step forward, and to support the delivery of the development the Government will consider allowing the Mayor and partner authorities to borrow against the Community Infrastructure Levy to support this scheme; and creating an additional enterprise zone at Battersea. Together these funding sources should be sufficient to meet the costs of the project.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Atos Healthcare

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions where the trial for the deployment of Atos-approved health care professionals in benefit centres took place; how long the trial lasted; and how many Atos-approved health care professionals were deployed as part of the trial. [87309]

**Chris Grayling:** The trial for the deployment of Atos-approved health care professionals in benefit centres took place in 33 benefit centres between January and July 2011. During the trial, a locally appointed health care professional visited each of the benefit centres one day per week. The following sites were involved in the trial:

*England*

Barnsley
Basildon
Birkenhead
Bolton
Bradford
Bristol
Bury St Edmunds
Canterbury
Gloucester
Halifax
Hanley
Hull
Leeds
Leicester
Luton
Newcastle
Nottingham
Preston
Stockton
Stratford
Sunderland
Totton
Worcester
Worthing

*Scotland*

Aberdeen
Clyde and Fife
Clydebank
Coatbridge
Glasgow
Kilmarnock

*Wales*

Llanelli
Merthyr Tydfil
Wrexham.

## Carers

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase support for unpaid carers. [87632]

**Maria Miller:** The Government recognise and appreciate the important role fulfilled by carers.

Financial support for carers is provided through the social security benefits system. The main benefit available to carers is carer's allowance, which provides a measure of support for people who are unable to undertake full-time paid employment because of their caring responsibilities. With the introduction of the Welfare Reform Bill, the Government announced that carer's allowance will continue to exist as a separate benefit providing an independent income for carers and recognition of the role they play. Carer's allowance is currently paid at £55.55 a week. The rate of carer's allowance is increased annually in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

In addition to carer's allowance, carers on low incomes can claim income-related benefits such as income support and pension credit. These benefits can be paid to carers at a higher rate through the carer premium or the equivalent additional amount for carers respectively, both currently worth up to £31.00 a week.

Personal independence payment is due to be introduced for working age recipients of disability living allowance from 2013 and will act as a gateway for carer's allowance. It is the Government's intention that both rates of the daily living component will be used as a gateway to carer's allowance. Both disability living allowance and carer's allowance will remain in payment until personal independence payment is assessed and put into payment if appropriate. This will maintain the existing awards of benefit until the assessment process is complete. Disability living allowance will remain a gateway for carer's allowance for people who are not working age.

From 2013, we are introducing universal credit, an integrated benefit which will be payable whether or not people are in work. Above a disregard of earnings, the universal credit award will reduce gradually as earnings increase, due to the single earnings taper. The universal credit award will include a carer element which will continue for as long as the carer provides care for at least 35 hours per week for a severely disabled person. The carer element will continue to be included in the universal credit award when carer's allowance ceases because someone's earnings place them above the limit for carer's allowance, currently £100.00 a week net of certain expenses.

The Department for Work and Pensions will continue to invest in supporting carers to return to work through Jobcentre Plus. The experience already gained allows Jobcentre Plus offices to be more flexible in adapting services to meet local needs and to allow them to work in partnership to meet these needs.

Jobcentre Plus currently offers, on a voluntary basis, to all carers working less than 16 hours per week and irrespective of benefit status, subject to any existing conditionality, a variety of support, including: adviser support; access to the Flexible Support Fund; payment for replacement care, child care, travel and course costs to allow the carer to undertake approved activity or interviews with Jobcentre Plus, providers or employers; and Partnership Managers who gather local and national information to inform Jobcentre Plus advisers of the support and services available to carers.

## Cold Weather Payments

**Mr McCann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payment temperature recording stations in each constituency have changed location since May 2010. [88103]

**Steve Webb:** At the end of every winter, DWP conducts a review of the cold weather payment scheme. The review takes into account all the weather stations used to provide data to the Met Office in respect of the scheme, representations from Members of Parliament and the public about the suitability of weather station to postcode linkages and any changes made by Royal Mail to the postcode system.

The Met Office as part of the review, provide expert advice and provide DWP with recommendations as to any necessary changes to linkages. These changes are then made to the scheme before the start of the next cold weather payment season.

The number of weather stations that have changed location in each parliamentary constituency since May 2010 is shown in the following table.

| | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Winter* | *Postcode linkage changes* | *Weather station to postcode changes within a constituency* | *Constituencies affected* |
| 2010-11 | 360 | 112 | 70 |
| 2011-12 | 173 | 63 | 43 |

*Notes*
1. The weather stations will cover areas outside of the parliamentary constituency.
2. Location changes may be due to either an MP request for the mapping to be looked at the Met Office changing linkages or weather station closures.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87345]

**Chris Grayling:** Staffing levels in the Department for Work and Pensions are reported based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) definitions which includes a standard reference point for reporting of the last day of the month. Figures are not therefore available for the dates requested but are available for 30 April 2010 and 30 September 2011, the latest published figure.

The number of people working in the Department on 30 April 2010 was 119,099, and on 30 September 2011 this number was 102,415.

### NDPBs

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department provided to the *(a)* Pensions Advisory Service, *(b)* Pensions Regulator, *(c)* Pension Protection Fund and *(d)* Pensions Ombudsman in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [88334]

**Steve Webb:** The information is in the following table:

| | *Funding provided (£ million)* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Arm's length body* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
| The Pensions Advisory Service | 3.984 | 2.03 |
| The Pensions Regulator | 33.272 | 31.20 |
| Pension Protection Fund | 33.406 | 16.55 |
| Pensions Ombudsman | 2.81 | 1.99 |

*Notes*:
1. Data for 2010-11 are taken from the annual report and accounts of each arm's length body for that year. Data for 2011-12 cover funding provided for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011.
2. Funding for The Pensions Advisory Service is recoverable through the General Levy charged to eligible pension schemes.
3. Funding for The Pensions Regulator is recoverable through the General Levy with the exception of resources provided by DWP for the auto enrolment employer compliance regime. In 2010-11 these resources totalled £7.963 million and for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011 £12.17 million.
4. Funding for the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) is recoverable through levies charged to eligible pension schemes with the exception of resources provided by DWP for the Financial Assistance Scheme. In 2010-11 these resources totalled £10.745 million and for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011 £5.73 million.
5. Funding for the Pensions Ombudsman (PO) is recoverable through the General Levy. The PO is also the Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman (PPFO). The amounts shown above incorporate the costs of both functions. Funding for the PPFO totalled £0.131 million in 2010-11 and £0.06 million for the period 1 April 11 to 31 December 2011. PPFO funding is recoverable through a PPFO levy, which is not currently being charged.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87970]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department categorises funded staff releases as either voluntary exit, voluntary redundancy or compulsory redundancy, and each category has its own unique terms and conditions.

There were no voluntary or compulsory redundancies in the given period. However as part of its current Transformation programme, the Department has offered selective voluntary exits in line with the Civil Service Compensation Scheme rules. These resulted in the following aggregate payments to civil servants during the period:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| September 2011 | 0 |
| October 2011 | 2.35 |
| November 2011 | 0 |

These are pre-audit figures based on individual exit quotes provided by My Civil Service Pension. The numbers may be subject to minor adjustments once the Department receives the final invoice for transacting these exit payments.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many temporary staff were recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [87971]

**Chris Grayling:** Temporary staff are defined by the Office for National Statistics as all staff with contracts, including fixed term, of less than 12 months.

Between September and November 2011 345 temporary staff were recruited. Of these, 234 staff were recruited on fixed term appointments to fill essential posts in operational delivery areas. The remaining temporary recruits were largely taken on as part of the new DWP Apprenticeship programme.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Virendra Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 206W, on disability allowance, what the cost to the public purse was of severe disablement allowance payments due to a main disabling condition which falls under those ICD-10 diagnosis codes contained in the Department of Health's programme budgeting category 07A for chronic pain for each local authority area in the latest year for which figures are available. [88794]

**Maria Miller:** To categorise the disabling conditions of claimants for incapacity benefits, the Department uses its own Incapacity Reference Guide (IRG), which details those conditions most relevant for benefit claims. For the purposes of reporting and analysis, these IRG codes are mapped onto the ICD-10 codes at the three-digit level. However, in specifying categories for programme budgeting, the Department of Health uses ICD-10 codes at the four-digit level, which provides a more detailed classification of medical conditions. Therefore because the IRG classifies medical conditions using broader categories than the ICD-10 codes at four-digit level, it has not been possible to identify those claimants whose main disabling condition would be contained in category 07A. An example is shown as follows:

ICD-10 three-digit category "R10 Abdominal and Pelvic Pain". This contains five sub-categories

R10.0 Acute abdomen

R10.1 Pain localized to upper abdomen

R10.2 Pelvic and perineal pain

R10.3 Pain localized to other parts of lower abdomen

R10.4 Other and unspecified abdominal pain

of which four (excluding R10.0) are included in programme budgeting category 07A.

The IRG provides a subdivision of "abdominal and pelvic pain" into abdominal pain, colic (abdominal or intestinal), colic (other), Gastralgia, and pain in abdomen. It is not possible to identify separately Acute abdomen, which would be necessary in order to match the sub-categories required for the Department of Health's programme budgeting.

In general, because of the different methods of grouping, it is not always possible to accurately extract the cases to match with those in the Department of Health's programme budgeting categories.

### Disability Living Allowance: Autism

**David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to his Department was of disability living allowance assessments in the last year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost of conducting personal independence payment reassessments for those with complex needs, such as those with autism. [81641]

**Maria Miller** *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The cost of assessments in support of claims for disability living allowance (DLA) in the last financial year (2010-11) was £14.046 million. These costs were solely for the charges incurred for the provision of evidence from ATOS Healthcare and GP's and do not include costs incurred from processing applications.

My Department has published estimates for personal independence payment assessment services ranging between £300 million to £500 million over three years for the purpose of a competitive tender published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). This would include all new applications and re-assessments for those claimants who are of working age including those with autism.

### Disability Living Allowance: Children

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households in England claim disability living allowance on behalf of a child aged two; [88668]

(2) how many households in England claim disability living allowance on behalf of a child aged two years and are eligible for free school meals; [88670]

(3) how many in-work households in England claim disability living allowance on behalf of a child aged two years and are in receipt of tax credits; [88671]

(4) how many out-of-work households in England claim disability living allowance on behalf of a child aged two years and are in receipt of child tax credit. [88672]

**Maria Miller:** Disability living allowance is a non means-tested benefit, eligibility for tax credits or free school meals is not relevant when determining a claim and therefore this information is not recorded.

Such information as is available is contained in the following table.

*Children aged two in receipt of disability living allowance, May 2011*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Aged two | 8,800 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures do not include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
3. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
4. DLA is awarded to individuals, not at a household level. Caseloads given are number of claims in payment with respect to two-year-olds.

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate 100%WPLS.

### Disability Living Allowance: Prisoners

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has received any reports of prisoners claiming *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* cold weather payments whilst in custody. [87707]

**Maria Miller:** I have not received any such reports.

Prisoners retain an underlying entitlement to DLA, but they are disqualified from receiving any payment of benefit. People who are held in legal custody as a result of a conviction for a criminal offence are required to inform the Department as soon as possible and failure to inform the Department may lead to recoverable overpayments of DLA.

The cold weather payment scheme is a fully automated service and payments are made to eligible people by the benefits computer systems when a period of severe cold weather triggers. Payments are not therefore made as a result of a claim as prisoners are disqualified from receiving payment of any benefit. Consequently there are no reports of prisoners claiming cold weather payments while serving a custodial sentence.

### Electrical Safety

**Graham Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in circumstances attributable to unsafe electrical fittings in a workplace in each of the last four years. [88746]

**Chris Grayling:** The information is not available at the level of detail requested. The following table provides statistics on injuries to workers involving contact with electricity or electrical discharge reported under the reporting of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences regulations between 2007-08 to 2010-11.

| *Severity of injury* | *Employment status* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fatal injuries | Employee | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| | Self-employed | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| | Workers (Total) | 10 | 7 | 4 | 7 |
| | | | | | |
| Non-fatal major injuries | Employee | 83 | 93 | 75 | 89 |
| | Self-employed | 4 | 6 | 11 | 12 |
| | Workers (Total) | 87 | 99 | 86 | 101 |

[1] The data for 2010-11 are provisional at this time.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many decisions on applications for employment support allowance were *(a)* turned down, *(b)* appealed against and *(c)* upheld on appeal in each month since the work capability assessment was introduced. [88779]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department regularly publishes statistics on the employment and support allowance (ESA) work capability assessment. The latest report covers new claimants to ESA to February 2011 (the latest data available) and can be found here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Table 1 in the above publication shows that for all ESA claims started between October 2008 and February 2011, 574,800 (38%) were assessed to be Fit for Work at initial assessment.

Table 3 presents data on ESA claims where the person claiming has been assessed as Fit for Work, they subsequently appeal the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by the Tribunals Service. It shows that for the 462,100 ESA claims starting between October 2008 and August 2010 (the latest month where sufficient volumes of appeals have been heard to publish) which were assessed as fit to work at the initial assessment there were 181,900 appeals heard (39% of fit for work assessments). This does not include appeals which have not yet been heard.

Of these appeals 112,200 (62%) concluded in favour of the Department such that the original decision was upheld.

### Employment Schemes

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria are to be used to determine suitable employment for Mandatory Work Activity. [88122]

**Chris Grayling:** Mandatory Work Activity is delivered by contracted providers and they have responsibility for sourcing placements across a range of sectors. The placements will last for four weeks and will usually be for 30 hours per week. Placements will take account of agreed restrictions that a claimant might have on their jobseeker's agreement (JSAg).

The Department is not specifying what the nature of each placement should be, but does expect that every placement will be additional to existing or planned vacancies and offer people the opportunity to gain fundamental work disciplines, as well as being of benefit to local communities.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Work programme providers are paid a fee *(a)* for referring a person to Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) and *(b)* in respect of each person (i) attending and (ii) completing MWA; and how much the fee is in each case. [88557]

**Chris Grayling:** Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) is not available to Work programme participants, and only Jobcentre Plus advisers can refer an individual to the provision. There is therefore no question of payments being made to Work programme providers for referrals, nor for people attending and completing MWA.

**Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants have been referred from *(a)* employment support allowance and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance to Work Choice since its introduction in October 2010 in (i) Edinburgh, (ii) Scotland and (iii) the UK. [88690]

**Maria Miller:** The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish official statistics on referrals to Work Choice in spring 2012. These timescales take account of the newness of the provision and the length of time it will take for sustained job outcomes to be realised.

### Employment: Young People

**Tony Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure the Youth Contract supports young people with *(a)* autism and *(b)* disabilities to access employment. [88308]

**Chris Grayling:** We are committed to ensuring that people with a health condition or a disability have the same employment opportunities and chances as everyone else to find and stay in paid employment and this will apply within the delivery of the Youth Contract, including wage incentives.

In addition, disabled claimants may be able to access a range of specialist employment provision including:

Early access to the Work programme. The referral process will give harder to help groups, such as disabled people, access to the personalised, individual support at the appropriate stage in their claim. Disabled people who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for three months will have the opportunity to volunteer for early access to the Work programme to ensure they receive it within a time scale that is most appropriate to them.

Work Choice began in October 2010. It provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers find and stay in work and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work Choice is voluntary and available regardless of any benefits being claimed.

Access to Work provides practical advice and financial support to employed disabled people above and beyond what the employer could reasonably provide, to help them overcome obstacles resulting from disability.

Disability Employment Advisers are also available to provide specialist support to people facing employment challenges because of a health condition or disability and Work Psychologists work with both claimants and advisers to help improve employment outcome.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which employers in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* Leicester City have participated in the Future Job Fund programme. [87657]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department does not hold records of the individual organisations that provided temporary placements through the Future Jobs Fund (FJF). Bids for FJF funding were submitted on a regional or national basis. The Lead Accountable Bodies who were successful in receiving FJF awards in the East Midlands region are listed as follows:

Healthy Hub
Leicestershire Partnership—NHS East Midlands
West Lindsey Council
Community Enterprise Derby
Erewash District Council
Bolsover District Council
First Movement
Northampton Enterprise
Asian Women's Project
Nottingham City Council
Stride Sharp Trading Leicester/Stride
Leicester City Council—Leicester and Leicestershire Partnership
Groundwork Lincolnshire
Enable
Action Deafness
Lincolnshire Dance
NACRO—(as part of a national bid)
Places for People—(as part of a national bid)
Groundwork—(as part of a national bid)
Salvation Army—(as part of a national bid)
Royal Society of Wildlife Trust—(as part of a national bid)
Football League Trust—(as part of a national bid)
Action for Children—(as part of a national bid)
Novas Scarman—(as part of a national bid)
Artswork(ENYAN)—(as part of a national bid)
3SC—(as part of a national bid)
CSV—(as part of a national bid)
Sustrans—(as part of a national bid)
Aspire Foundation—(as part of a national bid)
Creative and Cultural Skills—(as part of a national bid)
National Association of Citizens Advice Bureau—(as part of a national bid)
National Association of Clubs for Young People—(as part of a national bid)
National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure—(as part of a national bid)
National Trust—(as part of a national bid)
Ixions/New Deal of the Mind—(as part of a national bid)
Russell Commission Implementation Body (v-inspired)—(as part of a national bid)

### Housing Benefit: Females

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 761W, on housing benefit: females, how many women his Department estimates will be affected by the changes; and what the average weekly change in income will be. [87804]

**Steve Webb:** The following table sets out estimates of the numbers of people in Wales affected by the following LHA reforms:

setting LHA rates at the 30th percentile of Private Rented Sector (PRS) rents;

restricting LHA levels to the four-bedroom rate and applying maximum weekly caps;

increasing the Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR) age threshold to 35.

The table includes estimates of the average weekly financial loss per loser. The figures are based on an estimated caseload of 48,710.

| | *Number affected* | *Average loss per loser (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 30th percentile[1] | 43,270 | -8 |
| Four-bedroom rate and maximum weekly caps[2] | 200 | -34 |
| Shared Accommodation Rate[3] | 3,080 | -24 |

[1] Table 16
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/impacts-of-hb-proposals.pdf
[2] Table 20
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/impacts-of-hb-proposals.pdf
[3] Annex 2, Table 1
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

The published impact documents do not give separate figures for females, either the number affected in Wales or the average loss. However the following table gives an estimate of the breakdown by household type of those affected by the measures at a national level.

*Percentage*

| | *Household type* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Single female* | *Single male* | *Couple* |
| 30th percentile[1] | 47 | 30 | 22 |
| Four-bedroom rate and maximum weekly caps[2] | 50 | 19 | 31 |
| Shared Accommodation Rate[3] | 28 | 72 | n/a |

[1] Table 25
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-eia-nov10.pdf
[2] Table 15 and Table 20
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-eia-nov10.pdf
[3] Table 2
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf
*Note:*
Figures may not sum to 100 owing to rounding.

### Jobcentre Plus: Finance

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding Jobcentre Plus is to receive in order to deliver extra support for 18-24 year olds as part of the Youth Contract. [88124]

**Chris Grayling:** The Youth Contract builds on the support already available through Jobcentre Plus and the Work programme and is worth almost £1 billion over the next three years. The final cost of elements of the increased support through Jobcentre Plus such as weekly signing will be driven by the volume of claimants.

### National Insurance Contributions

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what obligations employers participating in private financial benefits schemes have to ensure that National Insurance contributions are paid on a regular basis on behalf of their employees. [87665]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Treasury.

Under the terms of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations 2001, employers are required to account to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for both primary (employee) and secondary (employer) national insurance contributions in respect of the earnings received by their employees from their employment. This accounting must be undertaken on a monthly basis (quarterly basis for some employers) using the PAYE system.

### New Enterprise Allowance

**Tony Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he has set a target for take-up of the new enterprise allowance by over 50s; and what the timescale is for any such target to be met; [88306]

(2) what estimate he has made of take-up of the new enterprise allowance *(a)* by over 50s and *(b)* in each region of the UK. [88441]

**Chris Grayling:** We have set no targets nor have we made estimates for the take up of the new enterprise allowance (NEA) by unemployed people aged over 50.

We have made funding available for 40,000 NEA places over two years. The following table shows the projected breakdown of places by region.

*Title: Projected breakdown of NEA places by region*[1]

| | *Volumes (2011-12 to 2012-13)* |
|---|---|
| East | 2,800 |
| East Midlands | 2,600 |
| London | 5,900 |
| North East | 2,800 |
| North West | 5,200 |
| Scotland | 4,300 |
| South East | 3,100 |
| South West | 2,100 |
| Wales | 2,100 |
| West Midlands | 5,000 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 4,200 |
| Total | 40,000 |

[1] Numbers rounded to the nearest 100.

### Pensions

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will take steps to encourage private pension providers to increase the level of annuities they offer; [87753]

(2) what assessment he has made of the extent to which the annuity rates offered by private pension providers act as an incentive for people to save for their retirement. [87759]

**Mr Hoban:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Treasury.

Annuity rates are determined by the market and influenced by a number of factors. The Government do not prescribe the terms, conditions or price that insurance companies may set when offering annuity products. As a rule, insurers use their claims experience and other industry-wide statistics to assess the risks posed by an individual and set the terms and price at which they will offer an annuity.

People approaching retirement can shop around by exercising the 'Open Market Option' to find the best income in retirement for their personal circumstances. A working group set up by the Government are examining how to encourage people to use the open market option. The Government will be announcing the outcome of this work in the spring.

The Government also recognises the importance of encouraging people to save for retirement. The Government are introducing automatic enrolment as part of their Workplace Pension Reforms to tackle consumer inertia and increase the number of people saving for retirement.

### Poverty: Children

**Mr David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to alter the measure of child poverty contained within the Child Poverty Act 2010. [88442]

**Maria Miller:** The Government set out their approach to measuring child poverty in the child poverty strategy, published in April 2011 and available at:

www.education.gov.uk/childpovertystrategy

In this, the Government stated that we recognise the importance of the four income measures set out in the 2010 Act, but the strategy requires a broader approach, focused on measures that genuinely track changes and improvements in families' lives. Looking at income measures alone creates too narrow a focus and fails to address the root causes of poverty. That is why the strategy established a broader suite of indicators that capture family resources, family circumstances and children's life chances.

### Sick Leave: Pain

**Mrs Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of working days lost as a result of chronic pain in England in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [88089]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions does not have estimates of the number of working days lost as a result of chronic pain, although we estimate that up to 140 million days are lost to sickness absence in the GB as a whole. The recently published review by Dame Carol Black and David Frost "Health at work: an independent review of sickness absence"

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/health-at-work.pdf

contains considerable up-to-date evidence on the health of the working age population and sickness absence.

### Social Security Benefits: Gurkhas

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of former Gurkhas officials in his Department have dealt with as part of its joint work with the Gurkha Welfare Trust in Aldershot since 2009. [88070]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions works closely with the Gurkha Welfare Trust, including providing a weekly information and advice point staffed by DWP advisers at GWT's Gurkha Welfare Centre in Aldershot. DWP advisers are also able to provide additional ad hoc advice sessions at the centre to meet demand. DWP advisers report seeing, on average, around 10-12 former Gurkhas per week. The Gurkha Welfare Centre also makes direct referrals to DWP Visiting for welfare benefit visits to former Gurkhas in the Aldershot area and across the UK.

The Department's benefit administrative systems do not record whether or not individuals claiming benefits are former Gurkhas and therefore the information on how many cases of former Gurkhas officials the Department have dealt with as part of its joint work with the Gurkha Welfare Trust in Aldershot since 2009 is not available.

### Troubled Families Scheme: Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the funding for the Troubled Families scheme announced on 15 December 2011 will be spent in Wales. [87713]

**Grant Shapps:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

As outlined in the written ministerial statement of 15 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 110-111WS, this is an England-wide initiative. It is targeted at the Government's ambition to turn around the lives of 120,000 most troubled families in councils across England. Responsibility for dealing with families with multiple problems living in Wales, including the allocation of any funding, has been devolved to the Welsh Assembly.

### Unemployment: Older Workers

**Tony Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce unemployment levels among those aged between 50 and 65. [88307]

**Steve Webb:** Jobcentre Plus treats jobseekers of all ages equally, and older jobseekers have the same access to a comprehensive menu of individually tailored help as those under 50 (apart from the specific options for jobseekers aged under 25). Support is tailored to the individual needs of each jobseeker, including help with work-related training and job-search support. Older jobseekers who are eligible can also access Get Britain Working measures, such as Work Clubs, Work Together, and the New Enterprise Allowance for individuals who are looking to become self-employed.

The Work programme will also provide support for those who are more at risk of long-term unemployment. Work programme providers are free to innovate and design support based on the needs of individuals, and will be paid primarily for the results they achieve in supporting people into sustained employment. All jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance and pension credit claimants can access the Work programme at a time that is right for them.

### Unemployment: Young People

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what organisations will be eligible to receive funding from his Department's Innovation Fund to support 16 and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training to enter an apprenticeship or employment with training. [88125]

**Chris Grayling:** Any organisation in the public, private, or voluntary sector is eligible to bid for the Innovation Fund, either as an investor, intermediary or as a delivery organisation within a social investment partnership.

### Work Capability Assessments: Kilmarnock

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many residents of Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency aged *(a)* under 30, *(b)* 31 to 40, *(c)* 41 to 50 and *(d)* over 50 have been assessed by Atos Healthcare since it began undertaking medical assessments for his Department; [88155]

(2) how many residents of each postcode area in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency have been assessed by Atos Healthcare since it began undertaking medical assessments for his Department; [88168]

(3) how many residents of Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency have been assessed by Atos Healthcare *(a)* in each of the last 12 months and *(b)* in each month since Atos began undertaking medical assessments for his Department. [88169]

**Chris Grayling:** The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency who *(a)* have cerebral palsy, *(b)* have osteoporosis, *(c)* are registered blind, *(d)* have hearing impairment, *(e)* have multiple sclerosis, *(f)* have autistic spectrum disorders, *(g)* are carers, *(h)* have learning difficulties and *(i)* have mental health disorders have been assessed by Atos Healthcare since it began undertaking medical assessments for his Department; and what proportion of the total number of assessments undertaken by Atos each figure represents. [88170]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested for employment and support allowance (ESA) is not available at parliamentary constituency level. Furthermore, any breakdowns by specific medical conditions to small geographical areas risk identification of individuals as the numbers in each category are likely to be very small.

However, for ESA the Department has published information at a Great Britain level on the numbers and outcomes of initial work capability assessments by primary medical condition. The outcomes include the results of any appeals heard. The medical conditions are based on the International Classifications of Diseases, 10th Edition, published by the World Health Organisation. It is available at the following links:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/110919_med_cond.pdf

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/110906_wcaresultsbycondition_clean.xls

The information requested for other benefits that Atos Healthcare undertake medical assessments for, such as disability living allowance and attendance allowance, is not routinely reported and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

### Work Experience: Private Sector

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of businesses taking part in his Department's work experience scheme he expects to be in the private sector. [88123]

**Chris Grayling:** No formal estimates have been made with regards to the proportion of work experience places in the private sector. I would expect a majority of places to be in the private sector.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what equality impact assessments he has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88579]

**Mr Harper:** The Cabinet Office considers equality issues in exercising its functions, to comply with equality legislation and to ensure it understands how its activities will affect different people. It provides information about this consideration in various ways. In the specified period, this information was sometimes published in the form of an equality impact assessment, although there has never been a legal requirement to produce such a document.

The Constitution Group within the Cabinet Office has published two such documents during the period. This includes an Equality Impact Assessment for the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, which was published on 7 January 2011, and an Equality Impact Assessment for the draft Individual Electoral Registration legislation which was published on 30 June 2011. These are available on the Cabinet Office website.

### Electoral Register

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will consider the merits of giving additional powers to the Electoral Commission to require under-performing electoral registration officers to follow Government guidelines on electoral registration. [88091]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are considering how to ensure the electoral registration system operates in the best interests of voters. In this context we are considering means of ensuring adequate performance by Electoral Registration Officers, including the recommendation from the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee to give the Electoral Commission powers to intervene where Electoral Registration Officers fail to meet agreed performance standards. We will respond to the Committee's report in due course.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will consider the merits of additional ring-fenced funding for electoral activities resulting from new legislation. [88092]

**Mr Harper:** Under current arrangements, it is the responsibility of local authorities to allocate resources from the revenue support grant provided by central

Government to fund electoral registration activities and any polls that they have the responsibility for funding. The Government are committed to funding any additional electoral registration and polling activity and in respect of electoral activities more generally, will ensure that Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers are resourced to carry out their duties.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on methods to ensure a full and reliable canvass in 2014. [88094]

**Mr Harper:** Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) will carry out an amended canvass as part of the transition to Individual Electoral Registration in 2014. In 2014 registered electors on the electoral register will be sent a personally addressed application form inviting them to register under the new system. EROs will also send out household canvass forms to those properties where there are no registered electors, or where they believe that those on the register for that property are no longer present. This will help identify eligible electors who will then be individually invited to register under the new registration system.

EROs will be obliged to chase non-responses to the individual invitations to apply to register and to the household canvass forms. This will include the use of door-to-door canvassers. This will help identify people who have not received an invitation to register and encourage those who have not applied to register to do so.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the factors underlying the change in the number of unregistered voters between December 2010 and April 2011; and what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of unregistered voters. [88095]

**Mr Harper:** The Electoral Commission's research into the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers in 2010 and 2011, confirms that the electoral register is at its most complete and accurate following the annual canvass when it is published in December. The greatest reason for the decline in completeness following the publication of the December register is people moving home. We are looking at how we can better help home movers to get on the electoral register in the right place as part of the move to Individual Electoral Registration.

### Lobbying

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to publish his proposed register of lobbyists. [88320]

**Mr Harper:** The Government have repeatedly emphasised the commitment made in the Coalition programme for government to bring greater transparency to lobbying by establishing a statutory register. We plan to bring forward proposals in the coming weeks.

## EDUCATION

### Academies: Bournemouth

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many secondary schools in Bournemouth *(a)* are considering applying to and *(b)* have applied to adopt academy status. [84075]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* As of 1 December 2011, three secondary schools in Bournemouth borough council have applied to convert to academy status, and all three have now converted. In addition, a special school (age range five to 16) applied to convert to academy status and received an academy order on 25 November. A further two secondary schools have registered an interest in applying to convert to academy status.

Two secondary schools have become sponsored academies.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11, can be found on the Department for Education academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesof schools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

### Colleges

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the autumn statement, what assessment he has made of the availability of capital support for sixth form colleges. [87630]

**Mr Gibb:** On 13 December 2011, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), announced the total capital allocation for 2012-13. This included £107 million of capital funding that would be available to meet maintenance and building needs of sixth form colleges and demographic pressures for new 16-19 places in schools, academies and sixth form colleges.

£59.1 million of this funding will be allocated to the sixth form college Building Condition Improvement Fund in 2012-13 to address priority building condition needs within the sixth form college sector.

In addition £44 million will be available in the coming financial year for basic need funding for additional places for 16 to 19-year-old students where there are demographic pressures in schools, academies and sixth form colleges. This funding will also support the provision of new places in mainstream settings, including in FE colleges, for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The balance of the funding (£4 million) is Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) for sixth form colleges, repeating the investment introduced for sixth form colleges in 2011-12. In 2012-13 all sixth form colleges will remain eligible for DFC at a rate of £4000 per college plus £22.50 per student. This means the average allocation to a sixth form college will be in the region of £40,000. This funding is primarily for planned maintenance.

## Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88605]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department and those bodies for which it is responsible are not specifically marking the UN Year of the Co-operative 2012.

## Advertising: Job Vacancies

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on advertising *(a)* in total, *(b)* in newspapers and magazines, *(c)* on television and radio and *(d)* online since May 2010. [83483]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education (DfE) has approved a total of £66,678.71 on advertising since May 2010. These costs relate to recruitment advertising undertaken to fill DfE job vacancies or attract volunteers to act as expert advisors to the Department across key policy areas (non-salaried posts).

The figures used in this response are taken from records of the exemption applications approved across the marketing and advertising spending controls. Final, actual spend is not recorded and to provide individual, actual costs for each post advertised would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

The recruitment activity included newspaper, sector/specialist magazine and online advertising. The cost breakdown against each medium is not recorded.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Schools Bureaucracy Reduction Group—advert for new members | 4,000 |
| Director of Communication recruitment advertising | 10,068 |
| European Schools system recruitment | 8,000 |
| Speechwriter recruitment advertising | 1,570 |
| Chief Executive of the Standards and Testing Agency recruitment advertising | 7,000 |
| Education Advisors—advert for new member | 7,500 |
| Standards and Testing Agency recruitment of head of test development | 2,000 |
| Standards and Testing Agency recruitment of two test development researcher posts | 4,500 |
| Teaching Agency CEO recruitment advertising | 5,750 |
| Education Funding Agency—Head of Capital recruitment advertising | 12,965 |
| Head of News recruitment advertising | 3,325.71 |

No paid-for television or radio advertising and no paid-for campaign advertising has been undertaken since May 2010.

Costs for the last three years are as follows:

£

| | *Total advertising spend* | *Total newspapers and magazines* | *Total television and radio* | *Total online (includes search)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007/08 | 9,101,642 | 2,263,659 | 4,705,653 | 1,561,314 |
| 2008/09 | 20,712,822 | 5,394,640 | 9,548,579 | 2,676,032 |
| 2009/10 | 20,469,182 | 4,655,022 | 10,435,211 | 3,104,982 |

## Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88575]

**Tim Loughton:** A full list of the equality impact assessments published by the Department since May 2010 can be found on our website here:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/policiesandprocedures/equalityanddiversity/a0063621/equality-impact-assessments-carried-out-since-may-2010

A hard copy of this information has been placed in the House Libraries.

## Mobile Phones

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) officials in his Department in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [72335]

**Tim Loughton:** During the last 12 months between September 2010 and August 2011, the Department for Education spent the following on BlackBerry smartphones and mobile telephones (all costs exclude VAT):

For (A) Ministers, the Department spent no money at all on the purchase of BlackBerrys and mobile telephones, reusing existing handsets as required. The total bill for BlackBerry usage was £1,209.65 and since no Ministers used departmental mobile phones in the period, there were no charges for their use.

For (B) special advisers, the Department spent £204 on the purchase of one new BlackBerry and again reused existing handsets where necessary. The total bill for BlackBerry usage was £803.77 and since no special advisers used departmental mobile phones in the period, there were no charges for their use.

For (C) officials in the Department (excluding Ministers and special advisers), £18,371.00 was spent on the procurement of 142 BlackBerrys and £2,285.00 for 25 mobile telephones. The total bill for their use was £240,513.81.

## Official Hospitality

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87611]

**Tim Loughton:** None of the Ministers or special advisers in the Department for Education has received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010.

The Department for Education publishes information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers on a quarterly basis. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be viewed on the Department's website via the following links:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/b0065263/ministers-quarterly-returns

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmental information/transparency/a0065912/special-advisers-quarterly-returns

Information for July to September 2011 will be published in due course.

### Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87999]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department has spent the following amounts on the provision of temporary staff via the two recruitment agencies with which it has a contract.

| | *Spend (£)* |
|---|---|
| September | 77,108.27 |
| October | 78,713.38 |
| November | 74,461.91 |
| December | [1]44,239.70 |
| Total | 274,452.26 |

[1] Further invoices are expected for December.

During this period the Department has not incurred any expenditure with a recruitment agency for the recruitment of permanent staff.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87997]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department has not made any redundancy payments. However, it has funded a number of approved voluntary exits over the period. All compensation payments have been made in line with civil service compensation scheme rules and these payments are set out in the following table:

| | *Number of staff* | *Total amount of compensation paid (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| September 2011 | 6 | 227,186 |
| October 2011 | Fewer than 5 | 149,996 |
| November 2011 | 7 | 419,537 |

### Secondment

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86138]

**Tim Loughton:** Since May 2010 there were fewer than five people seconded from the third sector into the Department. These lasted around 12 months and were to support the Munro Review, the review and development of the special education needs Green Paper and evidence-based interventions for looked after children. Of these, one secondment was in a policy development capacity.

Over the same period, there were no secondments from the industry sector.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many temporary staff have been recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [87998]

**Tim Loughton:** Between September and December 2011, four temporary members of staff were recruited, three in September and one in October.

### Design: Education

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the level of future provision of design and technology education for 11 to 14-year-olds. [86968]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The Government's review of the national curriculum is considering whether a number of subjects, including design and technology, should be a part of the national curriculum, and if so at which key stages. The review is being informed by responses to the call for evidence issued on 20 January 2011 and by evidence from the education systems of high-performing countries. We will be announcing our initial proposals for the national curriculum this year, following which there will be full public consultation before final decisions are made.

### Drugs: Health Education

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the role of education in schools in tackling drug and alcohol abuse by young people. [88407]

**Sarah Teather:** The Government approach to the role of education in tackling drug and alcohol misuse is set out in the Government Drug Strategy published December 2010. The Drug Strategy Inter-Ministerial Group, which includes Ministers from seven Government Departments, meets regularly to discuss progress against drug strategy commitments.

All schools should teach pupils about the effects of drugs (including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and medicines) through the non-statutory framework for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and as part of the statutory national curriculum for science.

The Government are currently reviewing PSHE education including drug and alcohol education. The aim of the review is to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching while giving teachers the flexibility to use their professional judgment to meet the needs of their pupils. The first phase of the review has completed and the Department will be publishing proposals for public consultation in 2012.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of ending education maintenance allowance on retention and enrolment rates in the further education sector in 2011. [87394]

**Mr Gibb:** There is no evidence that the ending of education maintenance allowance (EMA) has had an impact on overall levels of retention and enrolment rates in the further education sector. On 15 December the Government published "Building Engagement, Building Futures", which sets out our strategy for increasing participation among 16 to 24-year-olds. Access for young people to financial support, through the 16-19 Bursary Fund, is a key element of this strategy. The Department is commissioning an independent evaluation of the Bursary Fund which will commence in due course.

### Education: Harrow

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons the London borough of Harrow received the lowest funding per pupil through total basic need grant compared to other outer London boroughs in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [88786]

**Mr Gibb:** Basic need funding is not calculated on a per-pupil basis but on an assessment of the aggregate need in each area.

In the main allocation for basic need in 2011-12 the London borough of Harrow received £3.171 million. The allocation was based on the growth expected between the base year (2010-11) and the forecast year (2013-14). In Harrow, the data showed that there was a need for primary places, but no need for additional secondary places (secondary places attract a higher weighting).

The allocation methodology for the additional £500 million in 2011-12 used a different methodology and was based solely on shortfall in pupil places (the difference between the current capacity and the forecast). The London borough of Harrow had very little shortfall at the time of the allocations (none in primary and less than 20 places in secondary) and therefore received a small allocation of these additional funds.

### Free Schools

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many of the free schools due to open in 2012 are *(a)* new schools and *(b)* existing schools transferring to free school status; [85981]

(2) how many existing free schools are *(a)* new schools and *(b)* existing schools which transferred to free school status. [85982]

**Mr Gibb:** Of the 24 free schools that opened in September 2011, 19 are new schools and five were previously in the independent sector. A further 67 new schools and four independent schools have been approved to move to pre-opening stage, all of which are planning to open in 2012.

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the costs that will be incurred by local authorities as a consequence of his Department's decision not to pay section 106 contributions levied on free schools; and if he will make a statement. [87754]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department for Education is funding free schools to pay contributions under reasonable and justified section 106 agreements that have been entered into as a condition of planning consent. The Department will continue to fund free schools to meet commitments under section 106 agreements where required.

The Government believe that the creation of new schools is strongly in the national interest. As the Planning Policy Statement of 15 August 2011 makes clear, conditions placed on school development by local planning authorities should therefore only be those absolutely necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms.

### GCSE

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many 16-year-olds in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency achieved C grades or better in both English and mathematics GCSE last year. [86235]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which GCSE subjects are *(a)* tiered and *(b)* untiered; and whether there is variation between awarding bodies as to which GCSE subjects are tiered. [87808]

**Mr Gibb:** This is a matter for the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation and I have asked its chief executive, Glenys Stacey, to write directly to my hon. Friend. A copy of her reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Glenys Stacey, dated 10 January 2012:*

I am responding to your parliamentary question raised with regard to which subjects are tiered at GCSE and possible variations between awarding bodies.

I can confirm that there is no variation between awarding bodies as to which GCSE subjects are tiered. A list of subjects which are examined at foundation or higher tier and those which are examined at a single tier, are set out as follows.

If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Single tier/Un-tiered*

Art and Design

Business Subjects

Citizenship Studies

Classical Subjects (Classical Greek)

Construction and the Built Environment

Dance

Design and Technology

Drama

Economics

Engineering

Expressive Arts

Health and Social Care

History (England and Wales only)

Home Economics

Hospitality and /or Catering

Humanities

Information and Communication Technology(ICT)

Law

Leisure and Tourism

Manufacturing
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
*Two tiers (foundation and higher)*
Biology
Chemistry
Classical Subjects (Classical Civilisation, Classical Latin)
English
English Language
English Literature
Geography
History (NI only)
Mathematics
Modern Foreign Languages
Physics
Science
Additional Applied Science
Statistics
Additional Science

### Michaela Community School

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) which sites have been considered for use by the Michaela Community Free School; [87643]

(2) whether his Department is meeting the cost of the purchase of Balham Youth Court by the Michaela Free School. [87644]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* The original application for Michaela Community School suggested a number of locations as potential permanent or temporary sites for the school but none was found to be both suitable and available.

Since the application was approved to pre-opening stage, Partnerships for Schools has conducted a further site search. This has led to negotiations about a potential site which we hope to be able to announce shortly.

Balham Youth Court has been identified by Partnerships for Schools as a potential site for a one form entry primary school, 16-19 school, studio school, Alternative Provision or special school and would not be large enough to serve as a permanent site for Michaela Community School. If a need for temporary accommodation is identified for Michaela Community School, Balham Youth Court may be considered. The Department would fund the purchase of Balham Youth Court if it was required for a free school.

### Physical Education

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he has taken to monitor progress against recommended guidelines in the activity level of school children. [88673]

**Tim Loughton:** We have removed from schools the burden of having to fill in physical education and sport survey returns, which was a requirement of the previous Government. Instead, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), will introduce a much lighter-touch system of measurement, focusing specifically on schools' participation in competitive sport as part of the School Games. In addition, there will be an independent impact study of the School Games which will sample trends in schools' participation. The details of these are currently being developed.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to support children who are not motivated by competition in physical education lessons to meet guidelines for levels of physical activity. [88674]

**Tim Loughton:** Physical Education (PE) is a compulsory subject of the national curriculum for all pupils aged five to 16. PE will remain compulsory following the review of the national curriculum, but will have a greater focus on competitive sport. Competitive sport will not, however, be the only element of the revised programme of study for PE. As they do now, schools will teach PE in a way which motivates and engages all pupils and encourages them to be physically active.

### Postgraduate Education: Admissions

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* places and *(b)* applications there were for PGCE courses in each subject in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [85569]

**Mr Gibb:** The available information on the number of *(a)* places and *(b)* applications for Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) courses by subject can be found in Tables A and B respectively.

*Table A: Places allocated for Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) courses by subject to start in the 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic years, England*

| | *Places* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Subject* | *2010/11* | *2011/12* |
| Art[1] | 535 | 275 |
| Business Studies[1] | 520 | 275 |
| Citizenship | 225 | 155 |
| Classics | 25 | 25 |
| Dance | 70 | 55 |
| Design and Technology[1] | 995 | 725 |
| Drama | 185 | 150 |
| English | 1,510 | 1,445 |
| Geography[1] | 700 | 620 |
| Health and social care | 80 | 25 |
| History | 500 | 505 |
| ICT[1] | 925 | 635 |
| Mathematics | 2,425 | 2,180 |
| Media | 50 | 20 |
| Modern Languages | 1,560 | 1,290 |
| Music | 555 | 315 |
| Physical education | 745 | 560 |
| Primary-All | 9,645 | 10,640 |
| Psychology | 65 | 35 |

*Table A: Places allocated for Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) courses by subject to start in the 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic years, England*

| | Places | |
|---|---|---|
| *Subject* | *2010/11* | *2011/12* |
| Religious education | 675 | 375 |
| Science[1] | 3,270 | 2,760 |
| Social Sciences | 95 | 65 |

[1] Art includes Applied Art and Design; Geography includes Leisure and Tourism; Design and Technology includes Engineering; ICT includes Applied ICT; Business Studies includes Applied Business; Science includes Applied Science, Biology, Chemistry, General Science and Physics.

*Note:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

*Source:*

TDA ITT Trainee Numbers Census

*Table B: Applications for Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) courses by subject to start in the 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic years, England*

| | Applications (all) | |
|---|---|---|
| *Subject* | *2010/11* | *2011/12* |
| Art | 1,710 | 1,375 |
| Business Studies | 1,475 | 1,005 |
| Citizenship | 560 | 450 |
| Classics | 100 | 105 |
| Design and Technology | 1,780 | 1,015 |
| Drama | 1,160 | 1,080 |
| Economics | 15 | 10 |
| English | 4,250 | 3,945 |
| Env/Rural Science | 15 | 0 |
| Geography | 1,140 | 1,030 |
| Geology | 10 | 10 |
| History | 1,820 | 1,845 |
| Home Economics | 145 | 95 |
| Information Technology | 1,580 | 970 |
| Mathematics | 3,935 | 3,535 |
| Middle-All | 450 | 375 |
| Modern Languages[1] | 2,050 | 1,855 |
| Music | 1,025 | 720 |
| Other | 100 | 250 |
| Physical Education | 3,250 | 3,340 |
| Primary-All | 23,725 | 24,465 |
| Religious Education | 1,390 | 1,005 |
| Science[1] | 4,995 | 4,365 |
| Social Studies | 525 | 440 |

[1] Modern Languages includes French, German, Italian, Other Modern Languages, Russian and Spanish; Science includes Biology, Chemistry, Combined and General Science and Physics.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and include some withdrawn applications.
3. Some applications for Postgraduate ITT courses are made independently of the Graduate Teacher Training Registry and are not included in the figures.
4. Data for 2011/12 are provisional as at the end of the application process so are subject to change.
5. Membership to the GTTR changes between years, therefore the Higher Education Institutes covered may vary.

*Source:*

Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR)

## Private Education: Inspections

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made in transferring responsibility for inspecting child safeguarding arrangements at independent schools from Ofsted to the Independent Schools Inspectorate. [87888]

**Mr Gibb:** The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) has for many years conducted education inspections of schools affiliated to the Independent Schools Council (ISC). Until recently, all boarding welfare inspections in independent schools, including those affiliated to ISC, were conducted by Ofsted. In 2010 ISI was approved in principle to carry out boarding welfare inspections of ISC affiliated schools as this would allow combined education and boarding welfare inspections to take place. The Department took powers in the Education Act 2011 to allow Ofsted to monitor independent inspectorates' inspection of boarding provision, in the same way that it currently carries out monitoring of education inspections.

ISI carried out a small number of pilot boarding welfare inspections during the autumn term 2011, and will undertake a full schedule of boarding welfare inspections this term.

## Public Expenditure

**Mr Byrne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [85443]

**Tim Loughton:** For the financial year 2010-11 the Department for Education (DfE) provided funding to the local authorities as set out in the following table:

| *Local authority* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Birmingham City Council | 1,072,925 |
| *(b)* Newcastle upon Tyne City Council | 197,426 |
| *(c)* Wakefield City Council | 251,023 |
| *(d)* Manchester City Council | 398,165 |
| *(e)* Leeds City Council | 545,132 |
| *(f)* Liverpool City Council | 369,980 |
| *(g)* Coventry City Council | 267,453 |
| *(h)* Bristol City Council | 266,652 |
| *(i)* Sheffield City Council | 393,921 |
| *(j)* Bradford City Council | 473,772 |
| *(k)* Leicester City Council | 275,928 |
| *(l)* Nottingham City Council | 216,214 |
| Total | 4,728,591 |

## Pupil Exclusions

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were excluded from school in each parliamentary constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [87398]

**Mr Gibb:** The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

## Pupil Referral Units: Standards

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupil referral units received each level of Ofsted rating since 2001; and how that compares with the proportion of all secondary schools receiving each level of Ofsted rating over the same period. [87681]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. The former HM Chief Inspector, Miriam Rosen, has written to the hon. Member, and a copy of her response has been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Miriam Rosen, dated 19 December 2011:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The latest annual period for which published figures are available about maintained school inspection outcomes is the 2010/11 academic year. Since 1 September 2005, maintained school inspections have been carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. Ofsted records all judgements made by inspectors in section 5 inspections, including the judgement for overall effectiveness of the school.

Schools inspected under section 5. of the Education Act 2005 were graded against a four point scale: 1—outstanding, 2—good, 3—satisfactory, and 4—inadequate.

Prior to 1 September 2005 maintained schools were inspected under section 10 of the Schools inspection Act 1996.

Schools inspected under section 10 were graded against a seven point scale: 1—excellent; 2—very good, 3—good, 4—satisfactory, 5—unsatisfactory, 6—poor, and 7—very poor.

A direct comparison cannot be made between judgements made on section 10 and section 5 inspections as different factors were taken into account when the overall effectiveness grades were awarded to schools. Thus, the following analysis breaks down into two sections: schools that have been inspected under section 10 and schools that have been inspected under section 5.

Table A shows the number and proportion of pupil referral units and secondary schools inspected and their overall effectiveness judgement, at their section 10 inspection, prior to 1 September 2005. Table B snows similar information for pupil referral units and secondary schools under section 5 inspections from 1 September 2005, for each academic year between 2005/06 and 2010/11.

In September 2009, Ofsted implemented a policy of more proportionate inspection using risk assessment. In doing so we selected for inspection a greater proportion of previously satisfactory or inadequate schools and a smaller proportion of previously good or outstanding schools. Inevitably, this skews the sample of schools inspected and means that comparisons between years should be treated with caution. Prior to 2009 we inspected across the whole range of schools, but from 2009 onwards the range was not representative of the national profile of schools.

Statistics covering the outcomes of ail inspections carried out in each academic year since 2005/06 can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/advanced/resources-search/results/%2A/all/all/any/200/any?solrsort=im_search_date_mktime%20desc

The most recent official statistics release covering the outcomes of maintained school inspections carried out between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011 was released on 13 December 2011 and can be accessed at the same link.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

*Table A: Overall effectiveness judgement for pupil referral units and secondary schools inspected under section 10 for academic years between 2001/02 and 2004/05 (number and percentage of schools)[1, 2]*

| | | | Overall effectiveness | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Excellent | | Very good | | Good | | Satisfactory | | Unsatisfactory | | Poor | | Very poor | |
| Phase | Academic Year | Total | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Pupil referral unit | 2001/02 | 42 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 19 | 17 | 40 | 7 | 17 | 4 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| | 2002/03 | 75 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 24 | 26 | 35 | 19 | 25 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | — | — |
| | 2003/04 | 64 | — | — | 10 | 16 | 21 | 33 | 23 | 36 | 8 | 13 | 2 | 3 | — | — |
| | 2004/05 | 48 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 22 | 46 | 12 | 25 | 4 | 8 | — | — | — | — |
| Secondary | 2001/02 | 548 | 12 | 2 | 118 | 22 | 232 | 42 | 142 | 26 | 39 | 7 | 5 | 1 | — | — |
| | 2002/03 | 539 | 18 | 3 | 125 | 23 | 241 | 45 | 124 | 23 | 22 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | 2003/04 | 627 | 10 | 2 | 104 | 17 | 308 | 49 | 142 | 23 | 49 | 8 | 14 | 2 | — | — |
| | 2004/05 | 485 | 13 | 3 | 111 | 23 | 213 | 44 | 114 | 24 | 25 | 5 | 9 | 2 | — | — |

*Table B: Overall effectiveness judgement for pupil referral units and secondary schools inspected under section 5 for academic years between 2005/06 and 2010/11 (number and percentage of schools)[1, 2]*

| | | | Overall effectiveness | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Outstanding | | Good | | Satisfactory | | Inadequate | |
| Phase | Academic Year | Total | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Pupil referral unit | 2005/06 | 183 | 16 | 9 | 83 | 45 | 60 | 33 | 24 | 13 |
| | 2006/07 | 149 | 18 | 12 | 66 | 44 | 49 | 33 | 16 | 11 |
| | 2007/08 | 138 | 10 | 7 | 76 | 55 | 42 | 30 | 10 | 7 |
| | 2008/09 | 184 | 32 | 17 | 96 | 52 | 44 | 24 | 12 | 7 |
| | 2009/10 | 136 | 28 | 21 | 57 | 42 | 39 | 29 | 12 | 9 |
| | 2010/11 | 129 | 19 | 15 | 65 | 50 | 38 | 29 | 7 | 5 |
| Secondary | 2005/06 | 1,023 | 103 | 10 | 401 | 39 | 389 | 38 | 130 | 13 |
| | 2006/07 | 1,294 | 173 | 13 | 488 | 38 | 516 | 40 | 117 | 9 |
| | 2007/08 | 1,164 | 193 | 17 | 469 | 40 | 400 | 34 | 102 | 9 |
| | 2008/09 | 1,071 | 238 | 22 | 434 | 41 | 331 | 31 | 68 | 6 |
| | 2009/10 | 888 | 111 | 13 | 319 | 36 | 360 | 41 | 98 | 11 |

*Table B: Overall effectiveness judgement for pupil referral units and secondary schools inspected under section 5 for academic years between 2005/06 and 2010/11 (number and percentage of schools)*[1, 2]

| | | | Overall effectiveness | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Outstanding | | Good | | Satisfactory | | Inadequate | |
| *Phase* | *Academic Year* | *Total* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* |
| | 2010/11 | 894 | 126 | 14 | 338 | 38 | 360 | 40 | 70 | 8 |

[1] Percentages in the tables are rounded and may not add to 100.

[2] Percentages for small numbers should be treated with caution.

### Pupils: Assessments

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* net and *(b)* average spend was of schools in the maintained sector on key stage 4 examinations in academic year (i) 1999-2000 and (ii) 2010-11; and what proportion of the total budget of such schools this represented in each year. [88772]

**Mr Gibb:** The following tables set out the gross and average spend of local authority maintained secondary and special schools on examination fees for 2010-11, and what proportion of the gross expenditure of such schools this represents:

*Secondary schools*

| *Spend (£)* | *Number of schools* | *Average school spend (£)* | *Percentage of gross expenditure spent on examination fees* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 328,461,082 | 2,939 | 111,759 | 1.99 |

*Special schools*

| *Spend (£)* | *Number of schools* | *Average school spend (£)* | *Percentage of gross expenditure spent on examination fees* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2,637,991 | 971 | 2,717 | 0.14 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are taken from data provided by schools in the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) collection.
2. Numbers of schools used to calculate the average spend are taken from the January 2011 School Census. This relates to the January in the second part of the financial year. No weighting has been applied to the figures.
3. Figures supplied on spend are gross figures only.

The figures supplied cover spending on examination fees as outlined in the CFR guide and so only include: the costs of test and examination entry fees and any accreditation costs related to pupils, including GCSEs, A/AS Levels and administrative costs, e.g. external marking.

The figures cover all local authority maintained secondary and special schools. However, some of these schools will have incurred costs for other examinations. For example, those with sixth forms will have included costs for key stage 5 examination fees in their CFR returns. It is not possible to identify the costs for key stage 4 examination fees specifically from the data collected.

The Department did not collect figures on examination fees until 2002-03.

### Pupils: Bullying

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the recent research conducted by the Schools Health Education Unit on links between bullying and appearance. [87797]

**Mr Gibb:** Tackling poor behaviour in all its forms—including bullying—is a top priority for this Government. Schools need to work proactively to identify the driving issues behind prejudice among their pupils and put in place measures to prevent bullying and poor behaviour fuelled by peer pressure, as well as clear processes to respond to bullying when it does occur.

The Schools and Students Health Education Unit's (SHEU) report records statistics such as the number of young people who want to lose weight, who do not eat breakfast, and who eat fewer than five portions of fruit and vegetables per day. Although none of these issues is necessarily directly linked to bullying or the fear of being bullied, the research summary says that up to 22% of 10 to 11-year-olds report being picked on for the way they look. No child should feel victimised because of their appearance, or for any other reason, and where bullying occurs, schools must have robust procedures in place to respond to it quickly and effectively.

### Reading: Primary Education

**Stephen Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers he expects to undertake training in the reading recovery intervention in 2011-12. [86712]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* There are currently 88 reading recovery teachers in training. The number of teachers undertaking training in 2012 has not yet been confirmed.

**Stephen Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what financial support his Department is providing to the national co-ordination of the reading recovery intervention. [86716]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* We are providing a modest amount of funding to support management costs for Every Child a Reader, which has reading recovery at its core. We anticipate that this will be on a sliding scale until 2014. After this period, we have stated that the programme will operate on a demand-led basis.

### Residential Schools: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people ordinarily resident in Scotland have been accommodated in specialist educational facilities in England in each of the last five years. [88154]

**Tim Loughton:** The information is not held centrally by the Department.

The annual SSDA903 return collects information on children looked after by local authorities in England. Information is not collected on children looked after by Scottish local authorities; these data are collected by the

Scottish Government. These data collections are based on the local authority which is responsible for the child irrespective of the country of the child's placement.

Some of the Scottish children in English educational facilities will be placed for education purposes, rather than be looked after and any information we hold about "ordinary residence" will be based on English law.

### School Meals: Academies

**David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps he plans to take in cases where academy schools do not meet the nutritional guidelines for school meals followed by local authority schools; [85996]

(2) what assessment he has made of the quality of the school food provided to pupils in free schools; [85997]

(3) when he expects the School Food Trust to deliver its report on school food in academy schools; and when he plans to publish the report; [85998]

(4) what assessment he has made of the changes in school food provision in schools which have converted to academy status since May 2010. [86003]

**Sarah Teather:** We are confident that academies will recognise the importance of good nutrition to children's learning and will wish to provide healthy school food for their pupils. Where parents are not satisfied that they do so, they may complain through the normal complaints procedure which is publicised locally. Schools which have converted to become academies will already have been providing healthy, balanced meals that meet the current standards. I have no reason to believe that they would stop doing so on conversion. The Department is not aware of any evidence suggesting that academies provide meals that are less nutritious than those provided in maintained schools.

The Department has not yet made an assessment of the quality of the food provided to pupils in free schools. In order to assess the changes in school food provision in schools which have converted to academy status, the Secretary of State for Education, the right hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has asked the School Food Trust to undertake a qualitative study to look at the approach taken by academies to providing healthy school food. This will occur in January and February 2012, with the results expected to be published in spring 2012.

### Schools: Admissions

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for each local authority area, what proportion of places at maintained primary schools are at *(a)* non-denominational schools, *(b)* Church of England schools, *(c)* Catholic schools, *(d)* other Christian denomination schools, *(e)* Jewish schools, *(f)* Muslim schools and *(g)* any other denominational or faith schools. [75365]

**Mr Gibb:** I would draw my hon. Friend's attention to Table 10g of the Statistical First Release: Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, January 2011, which is available on the Department for Education's website. This was originally published on 22 June 2011, with an updated release published on 16 August 2011. This table has been enhanced by including an additional column "proportion of pupils".

The original full Statistical First Release can be found at "DfE: Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, January 2011".

### Schools: Expenditure

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of average expenditure by schools on text books and other teaching material; and what assessment he has made of *(a)* recent and *(b)* long-term trends in such expenditure. [88183]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department does not collect expenditure on text books and teaching materials specifically, but through the Section 251 Outturn data collection, we can identify the amount spent on educational resources (non-ICT equipment), which includes expenditure on text books and teaching materials. The following table shows the expenditure for three sectors of local authority maintained schools: primary, secondary and special and their respective levels of spend from 2003-04 to 2010-11.

| | *Primary schools* | | | *Secondary schools* | | | *Special schools* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Schools (No)* | *Spend on educational resources (£)* | *Average school spend (£)* | *Schools (No)* | *Spend on educational resources (£)* | *Average school spend (£)* | *Schools (No)* | *Spend on educational resources (£)* | *Average school spend (£)* |
| 2003-04 | 17,762 | 455,388,074 | 25,638 | 3,409 | 613,298,666 | 179,906 | 1,078 | 47,795,622 | 44,337 |
| 2004-05 | 17,642 | 471,942,114 | 26,751 | 3,385 | 654,977,627 | 193,494 | 1,049 | 48,738,648 | 46,462 |
| 2005-06 | 17,504 | 504,023,749 | 28,795 | 3,367 | 697,258,117 | 207,086 | 1,033 | 50,911,605 | 49,285 |
| 2006-07 | 17,361 | 533,651,478 | 30,739 | 3,343 | 743,343,412 | 222,358 | 1,006 | 54,318,230 | 53,994 |
| 2007-08 | 17,205 | 576,926,051 | 33,532 | 3,295 | 784,779,830 | 238,173 | 993 | 59,241,318 | 59,659 |
| 2008-09 | 17,064 | 609,560,433 | 35,722 | 3,225 | 811,595,214 | 251,657 | 985 | 63,801,100 | 64,773 |
| 2009-10 | 16,971 | 608,617,200 | 35,862 | 3,127 | 788,521,155 | 252,165 | 979 | 65,680,235 | 67,089 |
| 2010-11 | 16,847 | 650,160,404 | 38,592 | 2,939 | 755,619,238 | 257,101 | 971 | 70,104,313 | 72,198 |

*Notes*

1. Figures for 2002-03 to 2009-10 are taken from data provided by LAs in the s251 Outturn collection. The scope of this collection covers LA 'maintained' primary, secondary and special schools.
2. Figures for 2010-11 are taken from data provided by schools in the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) collection. The figures include data from LA 'maintained' primary, secondary and special schools.
3. Number of schools used to calculate the average spend are taken from the January school census. This relates to the January in the second part of the financial year. No weighting has been applied to the figures.
4. Figures supplied on spend are gross figures only.

The figures supplied cover spending on learning resources (non-ICT equipment) as outlined in the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) guide and so include:

achievement gifts and prizes awarded to pupils,

books (library and text books),

charges for the school library,

classroom and learning equipment (excluding ICT equipment),

curriculum transport, including minibus expenses such as maintenance, tax, fuel (excludes insurance),

furniture used for teaching purposes,

pupil travel for work experience placements,

purchase, lease, hire or maintenance contracts of audio-visual or other equipment used for teaching,

reprographic resources and equipment used specifically for teaching purposes,

school trips and educational visits,

servicing and repairs to musical instruments and PE equipment used as part of the curriculum,

subscriptions, publications, periodicals and copyright fees associated with the curriculum,

teaching materials,

television licence fees used for teaching purposes,

payments to alternative provision services, including pupil referral units (PRUs), non-maintained special schools (NMSS) and independent schools,

primary school PIP exam costs.

It is not possible to identify the costs for text books and other teaching material specifically from the data collected.

The expenditure figures for 2010-11 are taken from the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) collection because the Section 251 data (S251) is still undergoing final data cleaning. The CFR is a school-based expenditure data collection whereas the S251 is a return made by local authorities on all its maintained schools but includes the same CFR codes.

### Schools: Olympic Games 2012

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what correspondence his Department has issued to *(a)* the Scottish Government, *(b)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, *(c)* Scottish colleges and *(d)* local authorities in Scotland on the operation in Scotland of the Get Set networks for schools. [88116]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education has responsibility for schools in England. Scottish schools are the responsibility of the Scottish Government. The London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has developed the official London 2012 Get Set education programme, which is free for schools and colleges to join. LOCOG has contacted all eligible schools across Scotland regularly since the programme was launched in 2008. This contact has increased over the last few months to promote applications for the Get Set network, the reward and recognition programme for schools that embrace Olympic/Paralympic values in their activity.

LOCOG has worked closely with the Scottish Government and Learning Teaching Scotland to promote the scheme. LOCOG has written to all Scottish local education authorities, and spoken at numerous key Scottish education conferences and events including the Scottish Learning Festival. I have recently written to all MPs across Scotland to encourage schools to sign up.

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools *(a)* in each local authority area in Scotland and *(b)* in Glasgow North constituency have joined his Department's Get Set network. [88117]

**Tim Loughton:** The Get Set programme, and the Get Set Network, are not run by the Department for Education, but by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). LOCOG publishes data on schools and colleges that have signed up both to the Get Set programme and Get Set network at:

www.london2012.com/getset

This is updated each week, and includes schools and colleges across Scotland and in each local authority, as well as listing individual schools and colleges. The scheme does not operate on a political constituency basis.

### Schools: Sports

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps the Government are taking to improve the provision of sport within schools in Coventry. [87648]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* As part of the review of the national curriculum, Physical Education (PE) will remain compulsory for all pupils aged 5 to 16 across the country. The revised programme of study for PE will have a greater focus on competitive sport than previously.

All secondary schools in England with at least 20 secondary aged pupils, including 27 schools in Coventry, will receive £7,600 each year in 2011/12 and 2012/13 to release a PE teacher from timetable for one day every week. This teacher will work with local schools, including primary schools, to increase opportunities in competitive sport within and between schools.

In addition, the Department of Health and Sport England are funding 450 School Games Organiser posts across the country. These organisers work for three days a week and they will encourage greater take-up of the School Games and increase opportunities in competitive sport within and between schools. There are two School Games Organisers covering schools in Coventry.

### Schools: Standards

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education following his decision to prioritise funding for pre-16 education and to re-distribute resources to areas of deprivation, how he will ensure standards are maintained in existing high quality post-16 education providers. [87761]

**Mr Gibb:** We are making record amounts of funding available for 16-to-19 education—over £7.5 billion in 2012-13. This is on top of a significant increase in 16-to-19 funding in recent years.

We want young people to reach the end of key stage 4 with the skills and knowledge that enable them to progress to more advanced education or training and equip them to compete in the labour market. The best determinant of achievement post-16 is achievement pre-16. That is why we have prioritised funding on pre-16.

We have made unit cost reductions in post-16 education and training in two ways:

by bringing the school funding rate down to that of colleges; and

by reducing funding for enrichment activities.

We are protecting the main education programmes post-16 and young people can be funded for a programme of 4.5 A-levels or their equivalent, if they are able to undertake such a programme—and this position has not changed. We have also protected, as far as possible, funding for tutorial provision.

## Schools: Transport

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many representations he has received on withdrawals of discretionary school transport subsidies by local authorities. [87337]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* Department for Education officials have received a number of informal notifications regarding local decisions or plans to withdraw funding for discretionary transport and the issue has been raised in the margins of other discussions with Ministers. To date, there has been no formal requests for Ministers to take any further action.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the total expenditure by his Department on discretionary school transport subsidies in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [87451]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children who have benefited from discretionary subsidies for home to school transport in the last three years for which figures are available. [87507]

**Tim Loughton:** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* Funding for home to school transport is provided by a combination of Revenue Support Grant paid via the Department for Communities and Local Government and locally collected taxes. Local authorities provide forecast and outturn data (which includes an element of home to school transport) through section 251 statements. The data, for home to school transport purposes, are split between mainstream, SEN and post-16 data but do not sub-divide to individual types of school transport. The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), allocated £85 million to support local authorities in meeting their statutory duty in respect of extended rights to travel for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

We do not collect data from local authorities on the numbers of children in receipt of discretionary transport as it is for local authorities to use their discretionary power in deciding whether transport for a child not eligible for free transport is appropriate. Nor does the Department collect data on the numbers of representations received on individual areas of home to school transport.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding he plans to provide for students in sparsely populated rural areas to meet additional transport costs; and if he will refer to higher unit costs in scale and technologies required to educate learners in his report following completion of his 16-to-19 funding consultation. [87696]

**Mr Gibb:** Local authorities have a duty to publish a statement each year that sets out the travel arrangements they consider necessary to enable young people of sixth form age to attend post-16 education.

The £180 million 16-19 Bursary Fund, which sits alongside the local authority duty, has the flexibility to help students to meet individual transport costs.

The recent consultation on the 16-19 funding formula review included options to simplify the system of weightings for programme funding without losing the principle that funding should reflect the cost of programmes that are more expensive to provide. The 16-to-19 participation budget does not cover transport costs and that will not change as a result of introducing a new 16-to-19 funding formula.

## Teachers

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many new teachers in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools he expects to retire in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013 and (iii) 2014. [86732]

**Mr Gibb:** The following table provides the headcount of regular teachers in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools by ages 51 to 59 and 60+ in service in publicly funded schools in England, November 2010. These figures show the total number of teachers who may be eligible to retire in the near future at the normal retirement age or by following processes for early retirement. It is not possible to identify which of these teachers are new teachers.

*Headcount of all regular qualified and unqualified teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools and age[1]. Year: November 2010. Coverage: England*

| *Age*[2] | *Nursery and primary* | *Secondary* | *Total nursery/ primary and secondary schools* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | 4,450 | 4,780 | 9,230 |
| 52 | 4,800 | 4,750 | 9,550 |
| 53 | 5,300 | 5,010 | 10,310 |
| 54 | 5,310 | 4,960 | 10,270 |
| 55 | 5,300 | 4,730 | 10,030 |
| 56 | 5,330 | 4,750 | 10,080 |
| 57 | 4,930 | 4,310 | 9,240 |
| 58 | 4,500 | 3,810 | 8,310 |
| 59 | 3,550 | 3,150 | 6,710 |
| 60 | 2,120 | 1,930 | 4,050 |
| 61 | 1,410 | 1,360 | 2,770 |
| 62 | 940 | 980 | 1,930 |
| 63 | 780 | 810 | 1,590 |
| 64 | 440 | 450 | 890 |
| 65+ | 790 | 720 | 1,510 |
| Total 51 + | 49,960 | 46,490 | 96,450 |

[1] Includes all full- and part-time teachers with a contract of 28 days or more on the census date, November 2010.

[2] Age on the census date, November 2010.

*Source:*

School Workforce Census

### Teachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Chris Skidmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers were *(a)* suspended from schools as a result of allegations by pupils and *(b)* subsequently permanently removed from their position in each of the last 10 years. [87070]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The Department does not hold records of school level disciplinary action (including suspensions and sackings).

The General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) currently administers the regulatory system for teachers who have been dismissed by their schools for reasons of incompetence or misconduct. From 2001 to the present day a total of 208 teachers have been suspended by the GTCE due to misconduct and 14 for incompetence. It is not possible to ascertain from GTCE records whether those suspended from teaching were suspended as a result of allegations from pupils.

Figures for each year are set out in the following table.

*Number of teachers suspended by the GTCE since 2001*

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2001/02 | |
| Misconduct | 0 |
| Competency | 0 |
| 2002/03 | |
| Misconduct | 1 |
| Competency | 0 |
| 2003/04 | |
| Misconduct | 6 |
| Competency | 3 |
| 2004/05 | |
| Misconduct | 1 |
| Competency | 1 |
| 2005/06 | |
| Misconduct | 9 |
| Competency | 3 |
| 2006/07 | |
| Misconduct | 18 |
| Competency | 0 |
| 2007/08 | |
| Misconduct | 18 |
| Competency | 3 |
| 2008/09 | |
| Misconduct | 22 |
| Competency | 0 |
| 2009/10 | |
| Misconduct | 26 |
| Competency | 2 |
| 2010/11 | |
| Misconduct | 49 |
| Competency | 2 |
| 2011/12 | |
| Misconduct | 58 |
| Competency | 0 |
| Totals | |
| Misconduct | 208 |
| Competency | 14 |

*Source:*
General Teaching Council for England

### Teachers: Qualifications

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people undertook a Postgraduate Certificate in Education course in England in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of them went on to jobs teaching in England. [87113]

**Mr Gibb:** In the 2009/10 academic year, 22,410 trainees undertook the final year of a Postgraduate Certificate in Education course in England. Six months after the course ended 81% were known to be employed in a teaching post in England.

By sector, this 81% was comprised of 70% known to be employed in a teaching post in the maintained school sector; 6% known to be in a teaching post in the non-maintained sector and 5% where the sector was not known.

### Teachers: Scholarships

**Alok Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers were awarded funding from the National Scholarship Fund for Teachers in *(a)* the south-east, *(b)* Berkshire, *(c)* Reading and *(d)* Reading West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the value was of such funding. [87236]

**Mr Gibb:** The £2 million National Scholarship Fund for teachers was set up to help existing teachers in England develop their skills and to help them deepen their subject knowledge. The first round of successful bids was announced on 12 December 2011.

The number of teachers awarded scholarships and the total value of these awards in each constituency was:

| | *Applicants* | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| South-east | 110 | 298,063 |
| Berkshire | 12 who live in the county | 31,797 |
| | 11 who work in the county | 30,652 |
| Reading | 2 who live in Reading | 5,300 |
| | 2 who work in Reading | 4,625 |
| Reading West | 2 who work in Reading West | 4,625 |

There were no successful applicants who live in Reading West.

### Women's Rights: Curriculum

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the provision of teaching of women's rights and gender equality in the national curriculum. [84256]

**Mr Gibb:** No assessment has been made of the provision of teaching of women's rights and gender equality in the national curriculum. These topics can be taught as part of citizenship education, which is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum in secondary schools. They can also be taught as part of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, which is non-statutory.

We are currently conducting reviews of the National Curriculum and of PSHE. The national curriculum review aims to reduce prescription and focuses on the essential knowledge that all children should acquire. The internal review of PSHE education will determine the core content and how to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching. Beyond that, it should be for individual schools to design a whole school curriculum that best meets the needs of their pupils.

### Young People: Sports

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to increase opportunities for young people in Coventry aged *(a)* seven to 12 and *(b)* 13 to 18 years old to play sport. [87647]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* As part of the review of the national curriculum, physical education (PE) will remain compulsory for all pupils aged five to 16 across the country. The revised programme of study for PE will have a greater focus on competitive sport than previously.

In addition, all secondary schools in England with at least 20 secondary aged pupils, including 27 schools in Coventry, will receive £7,600 each year in 2011/12 and 2012/13 to release a PE teacher from timetable for one day every week. This teacher will work with local schools, including primary schools, to increase opportunities in competitive sport within and between schools.

### Young People: Training

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria will be used to determine eligibility for the proposed fund to increase the participation of young people in education, training and work. [87735]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* On 25 November 2011, the Deputy Prime Minister announced a new Youth Contract worth almost £1 billion over the next three years. As part of this, we will invest £126 million in England to put in place a new programme of support to help vulnerable 16 to 17-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training.

This programme will focus on disadvantaged young people who are more likely to face multiple challenges, which might include having low qualifications, a history of truancy or having been excluded from school.

We are currently developing the detail of this programme, including the target group, and will publish further information in due course.

### Young People: Unemployment

**Liz Kendall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which organisation he proposes will be responsible for (a) collecting and (b) monitoring information on the number of young people not in education, employment or training from 2012. [86164]

**Tim Loughton:** Estimates of the number of 16 to 18-year-olds in England who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) are published annually in June by the Department for Education in the statistical first release "Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16 to 18-year-olds in England". Quarterly data from the Labour Force Survey on the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds and 16 to 24-year-olds, NEET in England are published by the Department in the statistical release "NEET Quarterly Brief".

Local authorities are responsible for tracking young people's participation in education, training and employment and for recording this information for 16 to 19-year-olds resident in their authority. This forms a part of their statutory duty to encourage, enable and assist young people's participation in education or training.

The Department will continue to publish the information that local authorities collect, enabling local people to hold services to account.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 10 January 2012*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Charity Commission: Public Appointments

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to appoint a new Chairman of the Charity Commission. [89059]

**Mr Hurd:** The current Chair of the Charity Commission's term of office is due to end on 31 July 2012. The recruitment of a successor will begin shortly. As a public appointment, the recruitment process will be conducted in line with the requirements of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

### Redundancy Pay

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was paid in lump sums from the Civil Service Compensation Scheme in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [87138]

**Mr Maude** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* Lump sums payable under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme are recorded in the Notes to the Resource Accounts for Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation (which are available in the Library). The resource accounts for 2010-11 will be published in early 2012. The figure for lump sums payable includes any additional pension lump sums payable as a result of exits under the former compensation scheme terms.

### Deloitte

**John Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 537-8W, on Government departments: Deloitte, what the *(a)* net value and *(b)* individual value was of each of the Government contracts awarded to (i) Deloitte and (ii) associates of Deloitte since May 2010. [85945][1]

**Mr Maude:** The following table summarises contracts that are listed on Contract Finder. The total potential value of these contracts exceeds £1.47 billion; actual net value will depend on usage, particularly of framework agreements. Further information is held by individual Departments.

| *Supplier* | *Procuring authority* | *Contract* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA8 Scotland—Ingeus Deloitte | 141,761,075 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | EnglishWork Programme—CPA16 West Yorkshire—Ingeus Deloitte | 75,893,060 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA5 North East—Ingeus Deloitte | 111,509,095 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA1 East of England—Ingeus Deloitte | 117,887,335 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA3 West London—Ingeus Deloitte | 102,846,725 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA2 East Midlands—Ingeus Deloitte | 116,576,495 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA6 North West—Merseyside, Halton, Cumbria and Lancashire—Ingeus Deloitte | 107,089,660 |
| Deloitte LLP | Northern Ireland Audit Office | Financial auditing services | 264,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Skills Funding Agency | Cloud Readiness | 120,000 |
| Deloitte | Humber NHS Foundation Trust | Auditing services | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust | Internal audit services | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | Fabrick Housing Group | Auditing services | 16,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | One Vision Housing Ltd | Auditing services | 25,000,000 |
| Deloitte | National Audit Office | Accounting and auditing services | 2,450,000 |
| Deloitte MCS Ltd. | Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council | Business and management consultancy and related services[2] | 400,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP (local authorities) | Audit Scotland | Statutory audit services | 2,439,000 |
| Deloitte LLP (health bodies) | Audit Scotland | Statutory audit services | 1,896,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Coventry City Council | Financial consultancy services[2] | 20,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | University of Leeds | Statutory audit services | [1]— |
| Deloitte and Touche Public Sector Internal Audit Ltd | North Devon District Council | Internal audit services | 33,000,000 |
| Deloitte | Herefordshire Council | Auditing services[2] | 3,000,000 |
| Drivers Jonas Deloitte | NHS Shared Business Services Ltd | Property management services of real estate on a fee or contract basis[2] | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | The Pensions Regulator | Pension services[2] | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | The Pensions Regulator | Business and management consultancy and related services[2] | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services[2] | 50,000,000 |

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1.*[Official Report, 17 January 2012, Vol. 538, c. 1MC.]*

| *Supplier* | *Procuring authority* | *Contract* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drivers Jonas Deloitte | Swan Housing Association Ltd | Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services[2] | [1]— |

[1] No data
[2] Framework agreements rather than individual contracts.

### Civil Proceedings

**Mr Jenkin:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83881]

**Mr Maude:** The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Judicial Review

**Mr Jenkin:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80707]

**Mr Maude:** During the relevant period, Treasury Solicitors has moved from paper to electronic record keeping. Records indicate that during the relevant time period, there have been 13 judicial review cases against the Cabinet Office recorded on the electronic system and nine using the older recorded paper filing system.

The additional information requested on cases held using the older paper filing system could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The following information is provided in relation to the 13 applications for judicial review mentioned above. These 13 cases are comprised of:

three cases where judicial review was threatened, but not subsequently pursued,

one case was withdrawn,

five applications against the Department were unsuccessful,

two applications against the Department were successful,

one case was settled,

two cases are either pending or awaiting an appeal (this includes one unsuccessful application which is being appealed).

The legal cost incurred for each, to date, for the Cabinet Office is shown in the following table. (Fee notes are outstanding in many of these cases, the figures do not include estimates for accruals, and in many cases the legal costs were split between several Departments, as the case had multiple defendants. The figure given is for the Cabinet Office share of the costs where known.)

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Case 1 | 5,937.05 |
| Case 2 | 632.22 |
| Case 3 | 283.33 |
| Case 4 | 10,000 |
| Case 5 | 362.37 |
| Case 6 | 94,968.77 |
| Case 7 | 5,208.48 |
| Case 8 | 133,689.52 |
| Case 9 | 8,914.94 |
| Case 10 | 21,935.33 |
| Case 11 | 6,774.51 |
| Case 12 | 571.50 |
| Case 13 | 237,958.83 |

Costs were applied for in all five of the unsuccessful applications, and were awarded in total or in part for all five.

Costs were ordered against the Department in respect of the two successful applications.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011; [87355]

(2) how many people were working at No. 10 Downing street on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87356]

**Mr Maude:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and is included in the figures for the Cabinet Office.

Our records report upon the position at the end of any given month and, on that basis, the number of staff working in my Department is shown in the following table.

| | *Cabinet Office total* | *Prime Minister's Office* |
|---|---|---|
| At 31 May 2010 | 1,344 | 181 |
| At 30 November 2011 | 2,172 | 168 |

The rise in total headcount for the Cabinet Office should be set in the context of machinery of government changes that took place during the intervening period resulting in the transfer of 1,187 additional staff from other Government Departments into the Department.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many temporary staff have been recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [87965]

**Mr Maude:** Cabinet Office recruited 25 temporary employees during the period 1 September to 30 November 2011 of which 10 were graduate interns and five were apprentices.

### Disadvantaged

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what representations his Department received from voluntary and community organisations on social exclusion. [88758]

**Mr Hurd:** I receive numerous representations from voluntary and community organisations that cover a wide range of topics. The information sought is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he had with external organisations on social inequality between June and December 2011; and with which organisations any such discussions took place. [88778]

**Mr Hurd:** I meet with a wide range of stakeholders to discuss different policy priorities, including relating to social inequalities.

The latest details available of meetings between Ministers and external organisations are on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations-april-june

### Electoral Register

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the eligible population was registered for voting purposes in each English local authority in 2005-06; and what the percentage change in registration was between 2005-06 and 2010-11. [88349]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the eligible population was registered for voting purposes in each English local authority in 2005-06; and what the percentage change in registration was between 2005-06 and 2010 (88349).

The table shows the number of people aged 18 and over who were registered to vote in local government elections as a percentage of the estimated resident population aged 18 and over for each local authority in England in 2006 and 2010. The percentage change between these two time points is also given. Copies of the table have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The estimated resident population aged 18 and over is the closest available approximation of the population eligible to vote in each English local authority. However, these figures should not be interpreted as the electoral registration rate as the population eligible to vote excludes foreign citizens (from outside the British Commonwealth, Republic of Ireland and European Union) resident within the UK.

In addition, figures for the registered electorate may be inflated because people who have more than one address may register in more than one place (e.g. students may register at parental and term-time addresses) and electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or died. This may lead to percentages of over one hundred per cent and can affect the comparability of figures across local authorities.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of eligible households were registered for voting purposes in each English parliamentary constituency in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [88350]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of eligible households were registered for voting purposes in each English parliamentary constituency in (a) 2009 and (b) 2010 (88350).

ONS does not have the data required to answer your question. To calculate the requested proportion, both the number of households registered to vote and the number of households eligible to vote are required by parliamentary constituency.

ONS collect data on the number of individuals who are registered to vote in each English parliamentary constituency, but no data are collected on the number of households registered to vote.

The Department for Communities and Local Government produce projections of the number of households at local authority level but these are not available by parliamentary constituency as they are based on the ONS subnational population projections which are only available down to local authority level. Furthermore, any estimate of the number of households could only provide an approximation for the number of, households who are eligible to vote as some households where no one is eligible to vote will be included.

### Employment: Private Sector

**Phil Wilson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the net change in the number of private sector jobs was in each region in the third quarter of 2011. [87951]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck dated December 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the net change in the number of private sector jobs was in each region in the third quarter of 2011 (87951).

The table below contains the non-seasonally adjusted quarterly growth in private sector jobs between Q2 and Q3 2011. These figures are derived using total employment for each region and official regional public sector employment data.

*Private sector employment quarterly change by region 2011 Q2 to 2011 Q3*

| | *Thousands* |
|---|---|
| North West | 23 |
| North East | -7 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | -40 |
| West Midlands | 29 |
| East Midlands | -7 |

*Private sector employment quarterly change by region 2011 Q2 to 2011 Q3*

| | *Thousands* |
|---|---|
| East of England London | -26 |
| London | 40 |
| South East | -2 |
| South West | 31 |
| Wales | 2 |
| Scotland | -3 |
| Northern Ireland | 4 |

*Notes:*
1. Derived from LFS total regional employment estimates and public sector employment
2. Based on non-seasonally adjusted data.
3. Rounded to the nearest thousand.

*Source:*
Business Statistics Division, ONS

## Food: Prices

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the proportion of November 2011's inflation rate which can be attributed to the rising cost of food. [88327]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the proportion of November 2011's inflation rate which can be attributed to the rising cost of food (88327).

The consumer prices index (CPI) 12-month rate stands at 4.8 per cent for November. Food, excluding non-alcoholic beverages, contributed 0.37 percentage points or around 8 per cent of this total.

You may be interested to know that this data is available for high level series in table 11 of the detailed briefing tables on our website. The tables for November can be found at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/november-2011/consumer-price-indices--detailed-briefing-note.pdf

## Job Creation: Private Sector

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many of the additional jobs in the private sector in 2010-11 were transfers from the public sector; and what the equivalent figure is for 2011 to date. [87521]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many of the additional jobs in the private sector in 2010-11 were transfers from the public sector; and what the equivalent figure is for 2011 to date (87521).

Estimates of labour market flows, that is, the measurement of people moving between different labour force categories, are derived from Labour Force Survey (LFS) longitudinal datasets.

Unfortunately estimates of flows between sectors are not sufficiently reliable for measuring the number of people moving from the public sector into the private sector.

## Public Sector: Females

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 760W, on private and public sector: females, how many women who work in the public sector in Wales earn *(a)* below and *(b)* above £21,000; and how many women who earn above £21,000 have reached the top of their pay band. [87803]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 3 January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question which was pursuant to the Answer of 14 December 2011, Official Report, column 760W, on private and public sector: females, how many women who work in the public sector in Wales earn (a) below and (b) above £21,000; and how many women who earn above £21,000 have reached the top of their pay band. (87803)

Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), carried out in April each year, and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay who have been in the same job for more than a year. ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is less than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of percentage of employees in that category.

In April 2011, 58 per cent of all female employees working in the public sector in Wales earned less than £21,000 and 42 per cent earned above £21,000.

ONS does not collect data on employees that have reached the top of their pay band.

## Public Sector: Morale

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the level of morale among public sector workers. [88718]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office does not collect information on the level of morale among all public sector workers.

The Cabinet Office carries out an annual survey of staff attitudes across the civil service. The high-level results of the 2011 Civil Service People Survey were published on the civil service website on 23rd November 2011:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/improving/employee-engagement-in-the-civil-service/people-survey-2011

## Public Sector: Pensions

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to meet representatives of public sector staff to discuss proposed changes to their pensions. [86056]

**Mr Maude:** The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), and I have been jointly leading discussions with a TUC delegation, as representatives of public sectors workers, since February 2011.

I refer the hon. Member to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's statement to the House on 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1201-17, regarding 2011 the conclusion of public sector pension talks.

### Public Sector: Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to review the level of private sector involvement in the procurement of public services; and if he will make a statement. [88775]

**Mr Maude:** The Government are committed to implementing best practice throughout public sector procurement. To that end, I recently announced a package of measures that will change how Government buys from the private sector, to support business and promote growth.

In implementing these measures, we will provide an open door for current and future suppliers to discuss upcoming procurement opportunities; we will publish rolling medium-term pipelines of procurement opportunities (pipelines for ICT, facilities management, construction and infrastructure are already online); and we will work with industry to identify and address any key capabilities needed to meet future demand.

In addition, we have implemented a two-way commercial interchange pilot programme with industry to bring private sector expertise into government and interchange with our procurers who will benefit from experience of private sector best practices.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish information on how his Department intends to break down public service procurement contracts into smaller contracts and ensure that voluntary and community organisations benefit from any such activity. [88776]

**Mr Maude:** The decision to break up contracts into lots has to be taken on a case by case basis. In this respect, the Cabinet Office will work with Departments to look at their future contract pipelines to see what can or should be broken down.

From January 2012 Departments will be introducing lean procurement techniques to both speed up Government procurement and drive greater value. This will include greater focus on pre-procurement activities including looking at opportunities to break contracts down to ensure that SMEs, and voluntary and community organisations can compete for more Government contracts.

### Public Sector: Stress

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment has been made of the rates of *(a)* stress, *(b)* depression and *(c)* anxiety disorders among public sector workers. [88708]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office does not collect the information requested for the public sector. With regard to the civil service, this is a matter which is delegated to individual Departments to determine.

### Public Sector: Trade Unions

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 272W, on public sector: trade union officials, when he expects the consultation to commence; whether the consultation will be open to the general public; when he expects to publish his recommendations for change to be included in the consultation document; and when he expects a new framework for facility time to be implemented. [86325]

**Mr Maude:** The Government intend to commence consultation in the new year with civil service trade unions on facility time.

### Third Sector

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what visits *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department made to voluntary and community organisations in each month between June and December 2011. [88785]

**Mr Hurd:** As the Minister for Civil Society, I frequently visit voluntary and community sector organisations across all regions of the country. I also host regular meetings with various organisations as well as continuing the practice of inviting all MPs to bring local voluntary sector organisations to the Cabinet Office for meetings. Between June and December, I have visited over 35 such organisations in the UK.

The latest details of meetings between Cabinet Office Ministers and external organisations are available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations-april-june

### Trade Unions

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what meetings he had with representatives of trades unions in 2011. [87544]

**Mr Maude:** Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are published on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

### Voluntary Work: Young People

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the proportion of young people eligible to take part in National Citizen Service pilots who have taken part in such pilots; and if he will make a statement. [87957]

**Mr Hurd:** Approximately 8,400 young people took part In the first National Citizen Service pilots in 2011. In August 2011 there were an estimated 619,000 16-year-olds in England. In 2012, there will be 30,000 places on National Citizen Service and in 2013 there will be 60,000 places. The Government are committed to expanding the number of places available every year in order for an increasing proportion of 16-year-olds to be able to take part in National Citizen Service.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of young people from hard-to-reach families eligible to take part in National Citizen Service pilots that have taken part in such pilots. [87958]

**Mr Hurd:** Officials are currently working with the independent evaluation team to compile data on the numbers, profile and background of young people taking part in NCS in 2011. This information will be published as part of the independent research findings in February 2012.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the *(a)* socio-economic background, *(b)* gender and *(c)* region of residence of participants in the National Citizen Service; if he will publish the results of that assessment; and if he will make a statement. [87959]

**Mr Hurd:** Officials are currently compiling data on the numbers, profile and background of young people taking part in NCS in 2011. This information will be published as part of the independent research findings in February 2012.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the *(a)* social and *(b)* ethnic backgrounds of those who participated in the National Citizen Service in 2011. [88768]

**Mr Hurd:** Officials are currently compiling data on the numbers, profile and background of young people taking part in NCS in 2011. This information will be published as part of the independent research findings in February 2012.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has any plans to encourage representatives from voluntary and community organisations to visit schools and further education colleges to raise awareness of volunteering amongst students. [88782]

**Mr Hurd:** Promoting social action amongst all age groups, including volunteering, is a key part of the Government's vision for the big society.

The Giving White Paper, published in May 2011, outlined a number of measures that will support the creation of a culture of giving both time and money among all age groups. These include over £40 million of funding over the next two years to support volunteering, giving and volunteering infrastructure by way of the Social Action Fund, Challenge Prizes and Local Infrastructure Fund. Furthermore there is £1 million to support Youthnet which runs the volunteering website:

www.do-it.org.uk

Through National Citizen Service we are providing support to young people to participate in a programme of personal and social development culminating in a social action project which they design and deliver in their local area. This rewarding experience has awakened in many an interest in contributing to the life of their community through voluntary activity. Schools also encourage their pupils to participate in activities in and out of school, as part of their own development and engagement with the community but it is for them to decide which organisations they wish to work with.

The Department is also continuing to provide core funding to the Citizenship Foundation to enable it to continue its work to help build a culture of giving in schools through its Go-Givers programme, for primary age school children, and Giving Nation Challenge programme aimed at secondary schools.

### Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many posts in Wales in departments which are the responsibility of the UK Government there were on 5 May *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and what estimate he has made of the number of such posts in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013 and (iii) 2014. [88440]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many posts in Wales, in departments which are the responsibility of the UK Government, there were on 5 May (a) 2010 and (b) 2011; and what estimate he has made of the number of such posts in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013 and (iii) 2014. 88440

Estimates of regional Civil Service employment are published annually by the Office for National Statistics on the National Statistics website. The data available refer to the survey reference dates as at 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2011.

The number of people employed in Wales by home Civil Service departments, excluding Welsh Government and Estyn, was 29,254 in 2010 and 27,581 in 2011.

The Office for National Statistics is unable to provide forecasts for future years.

## JUSTICE

### Chief Coroner

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse per annum of the post of Chief Coroner. [87857]

**Mr Djanogly:** We are still in discussions with the judiciary about the implementation of the office, including whether the Chief Coroner will be a High Court judge or a Circuit judge and what support he or she will require, which will determine the annual running costs.

### Bail and Accommodation Support Service: Thanet

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has let any contracts for *(a)* approved premises and *(b)* bail accommodation and support services for the re-homing of ex-offenders in Thanet. [88519]

**Mr Blunt:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* I can confirm that there are no approved premises in Thanet.

*(b)* The contract for the bail accommodation and support service is a national contract. I can confirm that there is no property for this service available in my hon. Friend's constituency.

## Contempt of Court: Non-Molestation Orders

**Mrs Grant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what arrangements his Department makes to record the numbers of *(a)* convictions, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* arrests for an offence of contempt of court where the offence related to a breach of the terms of a non-molestation injunction order; [88133]

(2) how many *(a)* convictions and *(b)* prosecutions for offences of contempt of court where the offence related to a breach of the terms of a non-molestation injunction order there were in each year since 2001; [88138]

(3) how many *(a)* convictions and *(b)* prosecutions for breach of a non-molestation injunction order there were in each year since 2005. [88139]

**Mr Blunt:** Information on proceedings and findings of guilt are routinely collected by the individual magistrates courts and the Crown court. This information is then collated centrally to provide an overall picture for England and Wales. However, as in the answer I previously gave on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 669W, there were issues in the central recording of offences resulting from a breach of a previously imposed court order. These issues have now been resolved allowing information on prosecutions and convictions for breach of a non-molestation order to be collated from 2009 onwards.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery. From these centrally reported categories it is not possible to separately identify offences relating to breaches of non-molestation orders. Offences of contempt of court are summary offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

There are currently no plans to record the number of arrests for breaches of the terms of non-molestation orders.

The offence of breaching a non-molestation order under section 42A of the Family Law Act 1996 as added by section 1 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 states: sub-section (3) where a person is convicted of an offence under this section in respect of any conduct, that conduct is not punishable as a contempt of court; and (4) a person cannot be convicted of an offence under this section in respect of any conduct which has been punished as a contempt of court.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for breach of a non-molestation order in England and Wales in 2009 and 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for breach of a non-molestation order[1], England and Wales, 2009 and 2010[2, 3]*

| | Proceeded against | Found guilty[5] |
|---|---|---|
| 2009[4] | 1,933 | 2,279 |
| 2010 | 2,257 | 2,626 |

[1] Includes offences under Family Law Act 1996, S.42A as added by Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, s.1.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Following publication of Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 2009 data have been revised.

[5] Persons found guilty in a given year may exceed those proceeded against as a defendant may be prosecuted for a different offence at the magistrates court from that which they are later found guilty of at the Crown court.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of Co-operatives 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88600]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice will work closely with Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and Co-operatives UK to develop and celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

The Mutuals Taskforce recently indicated it will play a co-ordinating role for Government Departments to support the International Year of Co-operatives, with Co-operatives UK leading the taskforce's work in this area. The National Offender Management Service is working with Co-operatives UK on the support of mutuals and has had regular meetings with the Mutuals Taskforce, including the chair and vice chair.

The Ministry of Justice is actively exploring opportunities to encourage public service mutuals across its services.

## Courts

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of trial outcomes were *(a)* effective, *(b)* ineffective and *(c)* cracked in each year from 1997 to 2010. [87925]

**Mr Djanogly:** Table 1 provides the percentage of all listed trials that were recorded as either "cracked", "ineffective" or "effective" for each year from 2003 to 2010 for the magistrates courts. Table 2 provides the same statistics for the Crown court from 1997 to 2010. Data prior to 2003 were not recorded for the magistrates courts and are therefore not available.

*Table 1. The magistrates court*

*Proportion of listed trials which were "ineffective", "cracked" or "effective", England and Wales, 2003 to 2010*

| | | *Ineffective trials* | *Ineffective trial rate* | *Cracked trials* | *Cracked trial rate* | *Effective trials* | *Effective trial rate* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total listings for trial* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2003 | 177,485 | 52,179 | 29 | 67,103 | 38 | 58,203 | 33 |
| 2004 | 193,608 | 50,386 | 26 | 72,070 | 37 | 71,152 | 37 |
| 2005 | 182,500 | 39,634 | 22 | 67,193 | 37 | 75,673 | 41 |
| 2006 | 180,950 | 35,044 | 19 | 66,858 | 37 | 79,048 | 44 |
| 2007 | 189,830 | 35,150 | 19 | 72,565 | 38 | 82,115 | 43 |
| 2008 | 183,511 | 33,423 | 18 | 70,366 | 38 | 79,722 | 43 |
| 2009 | 179,858 | 33,609 | 19 | 68,080 | 38 | 78,169 | 43 |
| 2010 | 179,794 | 32,376 | 18 | 69,445 | 39 | 77,973 | 43 |

*Note:*
Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding and those that would round to 0% have been given to one decimal place.
*Source:*
Cracked and ineffective trials monitoring form. Business information Division, HM Courts and Tribunals Service HM Courts and Tribunals Service Performance Database (OPT)

*Table 2. The Crown court*

*Proportion of listed trials which were "ineffective", "cracked" or "effective", England and Wales, 1997 to 2010*

| | | *Ineffective trials* | *Ineffective trial rate* | *Cracked trials* | *Cracked trial rate* | *Effective trials* | *Effective trial rate* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total listings for trial* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 1997 | 54,233 | 15,063 | 28 | 16,760 | 31 | 22,410 | 41 |
| 1998 | 53,806 | 14,105 | 26 | 17,393 | 32 | 22,308 | 41 |
| 1999 | 50,791 | 12,444 | 25 | 16,502 | 32 | 21,845 | 43 |
| 2000 | 51,209 | 12,407 | 24 | 17,224 | 34 | 21,578 | 42 |
| 2001 | 52,041 | 12,556 | 24 | 17,877 | 34 | 21,608 | 42 |
| 2002 | 53,766 | 12,559 | 23 | 19,505 | 36 | 21,702 | 40 |
| 2003 | 52,066 | 11,311 | 22 | 19,820 | 38 | 20,935 | 40 |
| 2004 | 46,856 | 7,859 | 17 | 18,305 | 39 | 20,692 | 44 |
| 2005 | 38,244 | 5,216 | 14 | 14,575 | 38 | 18,453 | 48 |
| 2006 | 36,659 | 4,571 | 12 | 14,398 | 39 | 17,690 | 48 |
| 2007 | 37,285 | 4,511 | 12 | 15,507 | 42 | 17,267 | 46 |
| 2008 | 35,985 | 4,169 | 12 | 14,772 | 41 | 17,044 | 47 |
| 2009 | 39,262 | 4,926 | 13 | 16,437 | 42 | 17,899 | 46 |
| 2010 | 43,261 | 5,921 | 14 | 18,389 | 43 | 18,951 | 44 |

*Note:*
Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding and those that would round to 0% have been given to one decimal place.
*Source:*
HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the recommendation in the Civil Justice Council's recent report on Access to Justice by Litigants in Person that the Personal Support Unit network should be extended to more courts across England and Wales. [87940]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice is currently considering the Civil Justice Council's recent report and is also liaising with the council on how best to take forward its recommendations for dealing with litigants in person, including those relating to the Personal Support Unit.

**Mr Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average unit cost of a sitting day in each court for which his Department is responsible in the latest period for which figures are available. [88344]

**Mr Djanogly:** Cost is not available by individual location but the average costs of a sitting day in the courts for which Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) is responsible for the year ended 31 March 2011 were as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Crown court | 2,080 |
| High Court—regional | 1,926 |
| County courts | 1,619 |
| Magistrates courts | 1,323 |

Costs comprise all judicial and administrative costs directly incurred by courts, including accommodation.

In addition HMCTS is responsible for the operation of the High Court and Court of Appeal comprising the Royal Courts of Justice. The management structure of the Royal Courts of Justice and the complexity of cases heard make it difficult to attribute costs to the specific divisions comprising the Court of Appeal and High Court. As a result HMCTS does not evaluate average costs for the divisions and an overall Royal Courts of Justice average is not considered meaningful.

### Bailiffs

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects to conclude his consultation on proposals to protect people from aggressive bailiffs; [87363]

(2) what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to *(a)* consolidate and *(b)* reform laws relating to bailiffs. [87365]

**Mr Djanogly:** We expect to consult on proposals to protect people from aggressive bailiffs shortly. It will be a full public consultation that will run for 12 weeks. We will publish the Government response and our intended next steps following a detailed analysis of the responses received to the consultation.

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings his Department had with bailiff organisations in the last 18 months; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* attendance list was of each meeting. [87367]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice holds regular meetings with bailiff organisations to discuss the development of policy proposals and the potential impact of new policy on the enforcement industry. HM Courts and Tribunals Service holds regular meetings with bailiff organisations that are contracted to enforce orders of the court. These meetings are used to monitor performance. Details of the meetings that have taken place in the last 18 months are provided in a table which has been deposited in the Library.

### Defamation Bill: Draft

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to the report by the Joint Committee on the Draft Defamation Bill, HC 930-I. [87364]

**Mr Djanogly:** We intend to publish the Government response to the report of the Joint Committee as early as possible in the new year.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [88735]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** April 2010 to March 2011 and April 2011 to December 2011 were periods of major restructuring and downsizing in the Ministry of Justice. We were unable to run any external apprentice recruitment campaigns as we did not have any vacancies which were suitable for apprenticeships during this period. The Ministry aims to employ two external apprentices in the period January to March 2012. Officials are currently working with Civil Service HR and Civil Service Learning to agree our commitment for the period April 2012 to March 2013

The Ministry continues to recognise the importance of apprenticeships and has encouraged the use of modern apprenticeships among our current work force. We now have 1,700 trained apprentices working in the Ministry and its constituent bodies. We intend to return to the provision of good quality apprenticeship opportunities as soon as we have recruitment needs to permit it.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88587]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) considers equality issues in exercising its functions, to comply with equality legislation and to ensure it understands how its activities will affect different people. It provides information about this consideration in various ways. In the specified period, this information was sometimes published in the form of an equality impact assessment, although there has never been a legal requirement to produce such a document.

Information about the number of such documents published by the MOJ is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87341]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes the number of staff employed by central Government Departments on a quarterly basis. The Ministry of Justice provides workforce reports for the ONS to meet common publication dates.

The staff figures for the Ministry show that there were 78,620 employed as at 31 March 2010 and 74,560 employed on 30 September 2011 (the latest published information).

The staff numbers provided add together civil servants from the following:

Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies), National Offender Management Services, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, The Office of the Public Guardian, Scotland Office (for 31 March 2010 only) and Wales Office (for 31 March 2010 only).

### Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87987]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice only commits to the use of temporary staff through recruitment agencies when there is an operational necessity to do so. Recruitment agencies supply contractors, interims and agency staff for a fee, which includes the cost of the sourced labour and an element for their administration. These external resources are only sourced to meet skills, capacity and capability shortages in frontline and business critical roles. They are deployed in temporary positions when it has been established that there are no suitable internal resources available. When doing so the Ministry ensures that it receives value for money and complies with procurement legislation, HM Treasury's rules and Cabinet Office Efficiency and Reform Group requirements.

The amount of monies paid to recruitment agencies to cover their fees and costs for temporary staff, such as agency (clerical and administrative) staff, interim managers, specialist contractors, together with the fees incurred for sourcing staff for the Ministry has significantly reduced since 2009-10. They are over 50% less. For the months of September 2011 to November 2011 the monies spent is given in the following table.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| September 2011 | 5,159,768 |
| October 2011 | 4,886,987 |
| November 2011 | 5,651,547 |

*Note:*
All figures are inclusive of VAT. The above figures also include the Ministry of Justice's executive agencies.

These figures amount to £15.69 million, which is less than 3% of the total employee pay bill for this period.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87985]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice (including National Offender Management Service, HM Courts and Tribunal Service and the Office of the Public Guardian) spent £1,924,475 on civil servant redundancies in the period between September and November 2011. The majority of those redundancies were at senior management levels (Grade 7 and above).

The breakdown by month was £1,027,760 in September 2011; £794,195 in October 2011; and £102,520 in November 2011.

This does not include costs associated with the Ministry's Voluntary Early Departure Scheme, which provides the same terms as Voluntary Redundancy under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

### Secondment

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86131]

**Mr Blunt:** The data requested are not held comprehensively, centrally. Secondments can be agreed locally between managers and external organisations, and staff seconded into MOJ may remain on the payroll of their own organisation. To answer the question on the scale requested would require contacting each MOJ prison, court and office individually and asking them to check their records for any data on secondments during the relevant period. Each case would need to be investigated to identify the source of the secondees, plus the purpose and the duration of each secondment. This would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many temporary staff were recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [87986]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** Currently, a recruitment freeze is in place, which affects all external recruitment into the civil service, with exemptions allowed for business critical and frontline posts. For the period September to November 2011, the Ministry of Justice and its agencies (National Offender Management Services, HM Courts and Tribunal Service and the Office of the Public Guardian) recruited a total of 297 temporary staff (fixed-term employees) into civil service posts. The majority of these fixed-term employees are junior frontline staff.

The Ministry recruits people in line with the Civil Service Commissioners recruitment principles and is committed to recruitment on merit through fair and open competition.

### Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many restraining orders under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 have been made by a court on its own volition since September 2009; [87522]

(2) how many restraining orders under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 have been breached since September 2009; and in how many cases the breach led to a *(a)* prison sentence and *(b)* fine; [87524]

(3) how many people have been jailed for more than 12 months following a breach of a restraining order under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 since September 2009. [87525]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of restraining orders imposed at all courts in England and Wales under sections 5 and 5A of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 (as amended and inserted respectively by section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004) can be found in table 1 for the year 2009-10 (latest available). Centrally held data do not identify if a restraining order was imposed solely on the court's volition.

Table 2 provides information on the number of restraining orders under sections 5 and 5A breached, by number fined and number given immediate custody.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring 2012.

*Table 1: Number of restraining orders issued at all courts under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, England and Wales, 2009-10*[1, 2]

| *Description* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|
| Restraining Order Section 5 | 5,073 | 10,094 |
| Restraining Order Section 5A[3] | 0 | 647 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Came into force 30 September 2009.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

*Table2: Number of defendants sentenced at all courts for breach of a restraining order issued under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, by number fined and number given immediate custody, England and Wales, 2009-10*[1, 2]

| | | | *2009* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Sentence breakdown* | | | |
| | | | | *Of which:* | | |
| *Description* | *Sentenced* | *Fined* | *Immediate custody* | *Up to and including 12 months* | *Over 12 months* | *Other sentence*[3] |
| Breach of a restraining order section 5 | 1,329 | 141 | 457 | 430 | 27 | 731 |
| Breach of a restraining order issued on acquittal section 5A[4] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | *2010* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Sentence breakdown* | | | |
| | | | | *Of which:* | | |
| *Description* | *Sentenced* | *Fined* | *Immediate custody* | *Up to and including 12 months* | *Over 12 months* | *Other sentence*[3] |
| Breach of a restraining order section 5 | 2,798 | 321 | 904 | 863 | 41 | 1,573 |
| Breach of a restraining order issued on acquittal section 5A[4] | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes: absolute/conditional discharge; community sentence; suspended sentence and otherwise dealt with.

[4] Came into force 30 September 2009.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases has a defendant appealed the imposition of a restraining order under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 since September 2009; and how many were upheld. [87523]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice holds statistical information in relation to the number of appeals dealt with in the criminal courts (including the Crown court and the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal). However, central administrative databases for courts do not store information on the number of these defendants who have challenged the imposition of a restraining order under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

While such appeals will be logged on to the administrative computer systems used in the Crown court and the Court of Appeal, they cannot be distinguished from other types of appeals. As such, the information requested can be obtained through the manual inspection of individual case files held by the courts only at disproportionate cost.

Statistics are published on the number of appeals received and dealt with against sentences in England and Wales, from 2006 to 2010, in the Ministry of Justice's statistical bulletin "Judicial and Court Statistics", the most recent edition of which was published on 30 June 2011. The number of appeals against sentences dealt with in the Crown court can be found in table 4.10 and those dealt with in the Court of Appeal in table 7.6. The report is available on the ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-annual.htm

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training *(a)* police and *(b)* prosecutors receive in the implementation of section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [87526]

**Nick Herbert:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Home Department.

A Home Office circular on the implementation of section 12 was issued to all chief constables of police and chief crown prosecutors in September 2009. It is for the individual police forces to decide whether any specific training is required on section 12. The e-learning programme that is available to prosecutors and associate prosecutors on domestic violence has been updated to include information regarding the implementation of section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 and is available on the Home Office website. In addition to this training, the legal guidance on restraining orders has been updated and circulated to all Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff. This is available on the CPS website.

### Email

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to Ministers, special advisers and officials on the use of personal email accounts to conduct official business. [88536]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer given on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 667W, to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Jack Dromey).

The Ministerial Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, and the Civil Service Code set out how Ministers, officials and special advisers should conduct Government business.

### European Court of Human Rights

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Hanif and Khan *v.* the United Kingdom, what his policy is on police officers serving on juries. [88659]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** Lord Justice Auld carefully considered this issue in his "Review of the Criminal Courts of England and Wales" (2001). He concluded that no-one should be automatically ineligible for jury service simply because of their job. He did not consider it likely that people who worked in the criminal justice system would unduly influence fellow jurors or bring to bear any special degree of prejudice. His recommendations were implemented by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, and additional safeguards were introduced following the House of Lords judgment in R *v.* Abdroikof and others [2007] UKHL 37.

The Government are currently considering the decision in Hanif and Khan *v.* United Kingdom.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Hanif and Khan *v.* the United Kingdom; and whether he has any plans to bring forward legislative proposals in this area. [88660]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Government are currently considering the judgment. However the European Court of Human Rights was very clear that it was not deciding whether it is, in general, compatible with article 6 ECHR for a police officer to serve on a jury. We therefore do not envisage bringing forward legislative proposals in this area.

### Fisheries: North West

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were prosecuted for illegal cockle fishing in the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority area from May 2010 to 30 November 2011. [87375]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is not possible to identify from this centrally held information, of those proceedings under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, those specifically related to the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority area.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) advise that the management of the cockle fishery is the responsibility of North Western Inshore Fishery and Conservation Authority (IFCA). The IFCA is responsible for the enforcement of fishery byelaws in its waters. It is our understanding that there have been no prosecutions for illegal cockle fishing between May 2010 and November 2011 in this area.

### Harassment

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many police information notices or harassment warnings have been issued by each police force in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [87517]

**Lynne Featherstone:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Justice.

The information requested is not recorded centrally.

The Home Office launched a consultation in November 2011 which seeks views on how we can protect victims of stalking more effectively, including the use of police information notices.

### Homicide: Life Imprisonment

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the Homicide Review Advisory Group's report on public opinion and the penalty for murder; and what assessment he has made of the implications for his policy on mandatory life sentences of the recommendations in the report. [87810]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government remain of the view that the offence of murder should be marked with the most serious of sentences and they have no plans to abolish the mandatory life sentence for murder.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* nationality and *(b)* gender is of each suspected victim of trafficking referred to in the

Trafficking Victim Support Scheme of the Salvation Army in the last five years; in which parliamentary constituency each such case was located; and which agency referred each case to the scheme. [87546]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government-funded support service for adult victims of human trafficking in England and Wales administered by the Salvation Army commenced on 1 July 2011. The information provided in the following table covers the period 1 July to 15 December 2011. In the interests of victim safety, the region in which the victim was encountered is provided, rather than the specific parliamentary constituency.

Prior to the commencement of the current arrangements, support services for adult victims of human trafficking were provided by the charities Eaves Housing for Women and Migrant Helpline. The requested information is not available for this period.

| *Nationality* | *Gender* | *Region* | *Referring organisation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nigerian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Slovakian | Male | South East | NGO |
| Hungarian | Male | West Midlands | Police |
| Vietnamese | Male | West Midlands | Youth Justice |
| UK | Male | West Midlands | Police |
| Irish | Male | West Midlands | Police |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | NHS |
| Slovakian | Male | North West | Police |
| Czech | Male | North West | Police |
| Lithuanian | Male | Yorkshire | Police |
| Lithuanian | Male | Yorkshire | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Czech | Female | South East | Police |
| Sierra Leone | Female | South East | Police |
| Vietnamese | Female | East Midlands | Legal representative |
| Lithuanian | Female | South East | Police |
| Kenyan | Female | South East | Police |
| Togolese | Female | South East | NGO |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| Romanian | Female | South East | Police |
| Romanian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Nigerian | Female | East | UK Border Agency |
| Albanian | Female | South West | Legal representative |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Prison service |
| Sri Lankan | Female | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Indian | Male | West Midlands | Police |
| Ugandan | Female | South East | Legal representative |
| Lithuanian | Male | South East | Police |
| Lithuanian | Male | South East | Police |
| Romanian | Female | South West | Police |
| Romanian | Female | South East | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Self-referral |
| Czech | Male | Yorkshire | Police |
| Ugandan | Female | South East | Police |
| Ghanaian | Female | South East | Legal representative |
| Chinese | Male | East | Police |
| Polish | Female | South East | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Legal representative |
| Nigerian | Female | North East | NGO |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | NHS |
| Romanian | Male | West Midlands | NHS |
| Nigerian | Female | East | NGO |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Slovakian | Female | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Slovakian | Female | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Slovakian | Female | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Philippine | Female | South East | Police |
| Ghanaian | Female | South East | Self-referral |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Self-referral |
| Thai | Male | South East | Police |
| Ugandan | Female | South East | Legal representative |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Legal representative |
| Benin | Female | West Midlands | NGO |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Legal representative |
| Sierra Leone | Female | South East | NGO |
| Ethiopian | Female | West Midlands | Social services |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Social services |
| Rwandan/ Ugandan | Female | South East | NGO |
| Czech | Male | North West | Police |
| Czech | Male | North West | Police |
| Czech | Male | North West | Police |
| Hungarian | Male | South East | NGO |
| Brazilian/Italian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Russian | Female | South East | UK Border Agency |
| Polish | Female | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Indonesian | Female | South East | UK Border Agency |
| Lithuanian | Male | North West | Police |
| Lithuanian | Male | North West | Police |
| Albanian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Indonesian | Female | North West | Police |
| Hungarian | Female | Yorkshire | Self-referral |
| Lesotho | Female | South East | NGO |
| Lithuanian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | NHS |
| Romanian | Female | South East | NHS |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Slovakian | Female^ | South West | Social services |
| Slovakian | Male | North West | Police |
| Romanian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Prison service |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| Polish | Male | East | Police |
| Polish | Male | East | Police |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| Polish | Male | East | Police |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| Latvian | Male | East | Police |
| Polish | Male | East | Police |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| Lithuanian | Male | East | Police |
| UK | Male | East | Police |

| *Nationality* | *Gender* | *Region* | *Referring organisation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Prison service |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Police |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | Social services |
| Czech | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Czech | Female | South East | Self-referral |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Hungarian | Male | South East | Police |
| Hungarian | Male | South East | Police |
| Hungarian | Male | South East | Police |
| Hungarian | Male | South East | Police |
| Czech | Male | West Midlands | Police |
| Slovakian | Male | South East | Police |
| Romanian | Female | South East | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | Wales | Legal representative |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | NHS |
| Romanian | Male | West Midlands | NHS |
| Chinese | Female | South West | NGO |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | Police |
| Vietnamese | Male | South East | Legal representative |
| Ghanaian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Nigerian | Female | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Nigerian | Female | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Sri Lankan | Female | South East | NGO |
| Romanian | Female | South East | Police |
| Chinese | Female | South East | UK Human Trafficking Centre |
| Malawian | Female | South East | Legal representative |
| Polish | Female | South West | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | East | UK Border Agency |
| Latvian | Female | South West | Police |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | East | NGO |
| Bangladeshi | Female | South East | NGO |
| Chinese | Female | East | Police |
| Hungarian | Female | East Midlands | Police |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Chinese | Male | South East | NGO |
| Latvian | Female | North West | Police |
| Latvian | Female | North West | Police |
| Albanian | Female | South East | Social services |
| Romanian | Female | South East | NGO |
| South African | Female | South East | NHS |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | NGO |
| St Lucian | Female | South East | Police |
| Jamaican | Female | South East | Social services |
| Ugandan | Female | South East | Police |
| Ghanaian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Guinean | Female | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Ugandan | Female | Wales | UK Border Agency |
| Vietnamese | Female | North West | Legal representative |
| Romanian | Male | South East | Police |
| Slovakian | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Romanian | Male | South East | Social services |
| Romanian | Male | South East | Social services |
| Romanian | Male | South East | Social services |
| Albanian | Female | South West | UK Human Trafficking Centre |
| Guinean | Female | South East | UK Border Agency |
| Slovakian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Polish | Male | Wales | NGO |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Social services |
| Ugandan | Female | South East | UK Border Agency |
| Ghanaian | Female | East | NGO |
| Ugandan | Female | South East | NGO |
| Albanian | Female | South East | Legal representative |
| Guinean | Female | East | Prison service |
| Chinese | Female | Yorkshire | NHS |
| Romanian | Female | Yorkshire | Police |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Italian | Female | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Nigerian | Male | South East | NGO |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Polish | Male | South East | NGO |
| Slovakian | Female | Yorkshire | Police |
| Vietnamese | Female | South East | Police |
| Romanian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Romanian | Female | South East | Police |
| Albanian | Female | South East | Self-referral |
| Ghanaian | Female | South East | Self-referral |
| Slovakian | Male | South East | NGO |
| Slovakian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Chinese | Female | South East | Social services |
| Lithuanian | Male | South East | NGO |
| Hungarian | Male | South East | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | UK Human Trafficking Centre |
| Nigerian | Female | East | Self-referral |
| Nigerian | Female | South East | Self-referral |
| Cameroon | Female | South East | NGO |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Vietnamese | Male | South East | Social services |
| Albanian | Female | Wales | Legal representative |
| Vietnamese | Female | London | Social services |
| UK | Female | London | NGO |
| Hungarian | Female | Leicestershire | Police |
| Romanian | Female | London | Police |
| Vietnamese | Female | West Midlands | Legal representative |
| Czech | Male | Manchester | NGO |
| Slovakian | Male | North West | Police |
| Czech | Female | North West | Police |
| UK | Male | East | Police |
| UK | Male | West Midlands | Media |
| Nigerian | Female | London | Legal representative |
| Ugandan | Female | London | NGO |
| Latvian | Female | South West | Police |

| *Nationality* | *Gender* | *Region* | *Referring organisation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Polish | Male | South West | NGO |
| Polish | Female | South West | NGO |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | Police |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Albanian | Female | West Midlands | UKBA |
| Somali | Female | South East | Social services |
| Not known | Female | South East | Self-referral |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | NHS |
| Albanian | Female | Yorkshire | UK Border Agency |
| Equatorial Guinean/ Spanish | Female | East | NGO |

## Information Commissioner

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the savings required to be made by the Information Commissioner to meet the budgets for 2011-12. [87464]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Information Commissioner's Office is funded by two streams of income. Data protection work is funded by notification fees paid by Data Controllers. Freedom of information work is funded by grant in aid from the Ministry of Justice.

For the financial year 2011-12 there will be a £0.7 million reduction in grant in aid, which forms part of a four-year projected profile to make savings required by the Department over the course of the current spending review.

## Japan Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87601]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on departmental websites. Information for 1 July onwards will be published in due course.

## Legal Aid Scheme: Social Security Benefits

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Department for Work and Pensions and *(b)* other Departments on the effect on welfare reform of removing welfare benefits from the scope of legal aid. [87913]

**Mr Djanogly:** Extensive discussions were held with other Government Departments as part of both the policy development and clearance processes, and these discussions considered potential effects. Ultimately the effects of the changes will be determined by behavioural responses to them. MOJ is currently considering a number of options that could contribute to monitoring the impact of the reforms on clients.

## Non-Governmental Organisations

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much direct funding of £100,000 or more his Department provided to each partner organisation *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [87932]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Department has provided funding of £100,000 or more to each of the following arm's length bodies for the periods *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-2012.

*£ million*

| *Name of the arm's length body* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
|---|---|---|
| Youth Justice Board | 418.0 | 393.9 |
| Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority | 278.0 | 202.2 |
| Parole Board | 10.2 | 10.0 |
| Administrative Justice and Tribunal Council | 1.3 | 0.7 |
| Official Solicitor and Public Trustee | 5.0 | 5.2 |
| Judicial Office | 14.2 | 19.5 |
| HM Chief Inspectorate of Prisons | 3.8 | 3.6 |
| HM Chief Inspectorate of Probation | 4.0 | 3.8 |
| Criminal Cases Review Commission | 6.5 | 6.1 |
| Independent Monitoring Boards | 2.8 | 2.5 |
| Office of the Information Commissioner | 6.4 | 4.6 |
| Judicial Appointments Commission | 6.86 | 5.5 |
| Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Law Commission | 3.8 | 3.2 |
| Legal Services Commission | 2,229.3 | 2,251.4 |
| Prisons and Probation Ombudsman | 5.7 | 5.5 |
| Sentencing Council for England and Wales | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses | 1.4 | 1.1 |

The Department has also provided funding of £100,000 or more to each of the following executive agencies for the periods *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-2012.

*£ million*

| *Name of the executive agency* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
|---|---|---|
| National Offender Management Service | 3,821.2 | 3,621.6 |
| Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service | 1,109.0 | 1,193.7 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | (1.6) | (0.5) |

The figures given above are total resource budget. Figures for 2010-11 are based on the final outturn. The 2011-12 figures are based on the resource budget allocation as at 31 October 2011, so may vary depending on actual expenditure and the Ministry's priorities.

The Office of the Public Guardian receives more income than its expenditure. This is reflected in the organisation's budget.

### Offenders: Compensation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average compensation paid by offenders was in *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* Crown courts from 1997 to 2010. [87931]

**Mr Djanogly:** Her Majesty's Courts Service does not hold centrally the average compensation paid by offenders. These data could be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of all fine accounts.

### Offenders: Expenditure

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average cost per year of keeping an offender in *(a)* an adult prison, *(b)* a young offender institution and *(c)* a secure training centre by main budget heading for the (i) public and (ii) contracted sector. [86287]

**Mr Blunt:** The information is as follows.

*Adult prison and Youth Offender Institution*

The following table provides average annual cost per prisoner in England and Wales for adult prisons and young offender institutions (YOI), split by ages 15-21 and 15-17, for the financial year 2010-11 at public and private sector prisons.

*Cost per prisoner by adult/YOI and public/private, 2010-11*

£

| *Prison category* | *Public* | *Private* |
|---|---|---|
| Adult | 35,702 | 34,864 |
| YOI (ages 15-21) | 46,887 | n/a |
| YOI (ages 15-17) | 73,885 | 86,961 |

*Breakdown by main budget headings*

£

| | *Adult* | | *YOI* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Public* | *Private* | *Public (15-21)* | *Public (15-17)* | *Private (15-17)* |
| *Direct costs* | | | | | |
| Payroll | 19,398 | 35 | 26,638 | 43,485 | 483 |
| Non pay | 7,349 | 32,607 | 8,601 | 13,965 | 84,402 |
| Income | -1,957 | 0 | -1,451 | -1,440 | 0 |
| | 24,790 | 32,642 | 33,788 | 56,010 | 84,885 |
| *Allocated and apportioned costs* | | | | | |
| Accommodation related | 3,380 | 147 | 4,500 | 5,042 | 0 |
| Central costs[1] | 5,578 | 122 | 6,645 | 10,879 | 122 |
| Prisoner Escort and Custody Service | 1,954 | 1,954 | 1,954 | 1,954 | 1,954 |
| | 10,912 | 2,223 | 13,099 | 17,874 | 2,075 |
| Total | 35,702 | 34,864 | 46,887 | 73,885 | 88,961 |

[1] Includes Shared Services Centre, IT, headquarters, restructure costs, etc.

*Notes:*

1. The overall average costs comprise the direct local establishment costs of public and private prisons, increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS (as recorded in the addendum to the National Offender Management Service Agency 2010-11 annual report and accounts). This involves some estimation. Expenditure which is met by other Government Departments or directly by the Youth Justice Board, such as expenditure on health and education, is not included. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included.
2. The costs represent the total cost per prisoner at each prison where the majority use at the end of the year was as adult prison, YOI (aged 15-17) or YOI (aged 15-21). There is no adjustment for prisons holding prisoners of more than one category.
3. A split of the YOI (aged 15-21) category to show unit cost information for under-18 juveniles only within those establishments is not available. Furthermore, there are no private YOI establishments that house prisoners in the aged 15-21 category.
4. The public sector and private sector costs are not directly comparable because of differences in accounting treatment and scope of services.

*Secure Training Centre*

The cost of a place in a secure training centre for 2011-12 is £170,000. This is the price as at 1 April 2011 and does not include VAT. The Youth Justice Board calculates these costs based upon full occupancy and does not calculate the costs per prisoner. The cost is not broken down by budget heading as the financial mechanism aggregates the full cost of the provision into the price charged to the Youth Justice Board.

### Offenders: Rehabilitation

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to complete his work on co-design of the payment by results model. [87362]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice is working with other Government Departments to co-design payment by results approaches aimed at achieving shared priorities.

Two pilots testing the addition of a re-offending outcome into the Department for Work and Pensions' Work programme are due to begin in summer 2012.

The Ministry of Justice is also working with the Department of Health and the Home Office to implement a further eight projects, aimed at incentivising drug and alcohol recovery, and including a reducing re-offending outcome. These projects will begin in April 2012.

## Police: Crimes of Violence

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the highest number was of previous convictions for assault on a police constable for an individual convicted of an offence of assault on a police constable without being sent to prison in each of the last three years; and how many offences that individual had committed in total at the point of sentence for this offence. [84545]

**Mr Blunt:** The table shows the highest number of previous convictions for assault on a police constable, for individuals convicted of this offence in the years 2008 to 2010 who received a sentence other than immediate custody. It also shows their total number of previous cautions and convictions. Although these individuals did not go to prison for their index offence, they have all previously been to prison for the same offence. Assault on a police constable is a summary only offence and the sentencing guidelines indicate that a non-custodial sentence, including a fine, would be appropriate where no injury is caused.

The figure for 2008 is for a male whose first caution or conviction was in 1949. When looking at their previous offences by offence category 45% were for summary offences excluding motoring which includes the offence of assault on a constable.

The figure for 2009 is for a male whose first caution or conviction was in 1979. When looking at their previous offences by offence category 55% of the previous offences were for summary offences excluding motoring which includes the offence of assault on a constable. In addition, 63% of the offences within the summary offences excluding motoring category were for drunk and disorderly offences.

The figure for 2010 is for a female whose first caution or conviction was in 1997. When looking at their previous offences by offence category 83% were for summary offences excluding motoring which includes the offence of assault on a constable.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large-scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

*Highest number of previous convictions for assault on a constable, when convicted of this offence in England and Wales in the years 2008 to 2010, and not going to prison*

| | *Number of previous offences* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| Previous convictions for assault on a constable | 36 | 31 | 31 |
| Previous cautions and convictions for any offence at time of conviction | 241 | 462 | 78 |
| Previous immediate custodial sentences for any offence at time of conviction | 115 | 115 | 23 |

## Prisoners Employment

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he is taking to ensure the availability of support to offenders, including those with a learning disability, both to carry out work and to understand the terms of employment in prison; and if he will make a statement; [88752]

(2) what representations he has received on *(a)* the availability of support to offenders to carry out work and *(b)* to understand the terms of employment in prison; and if he will make a statement. [88753]

**Mr Blunt:** Ministers regularly receive representations from interested parties on matters pertaining to support for work for offenders in prison. For example, several peers and representatives of Mencap met Lord McNally in December and discussed such issues.

Information, advice and guidance are offered to prisoners in England and Wales to support them in making effective choices regarding employment and work-based learning both in prison and upon release. Prisoners receive induction and ongoing training, supervision and support in the work place undertaken by prison officers and/or workshop instructors and in some cases, peer mentors. In many prison work places industry recognised qualifications are delivered. Work place induction will cover the terms and conditions of employment. Any ongoing queries or concerns regarding terms and conditions can be addressed through local complaints and applications procedures.

In addition, as regards prisoners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD), NOMS has strong policies based around equal opportunities and treating all prisoners equally and with respect, and works in partnership with other, specialist organisations to continually seek to improve the services provided to prisoners. For example working jointly with the Department of Health, NOMS is looking to introduce a learning disability screening questionnaire (LDSQ) for use by all prison staff to identify those with a learning difficulty or disability and refer them to specialist support and services. Prison education providers will provide additional learning support, as and when it is required, for prisoners with an identified need through personalised programmes, specialist staff, adaptations and resources, where appropriate.

In March 2011, the Department of Health published "Positive Practice, Positive Outcomes: A handbook for professionals in the criminal justice system working with offenders with a learning disability." This guidance is in the public domain and is available online at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_124743

In October and November 2011 NOMS worked with MENCAP to prepare and run four workshops for prison staff, using group activities to cover basic awareness of learning disabilities/difficulties (LDD) and how such conditions can affect the day to day management of prisoners. Discussions with MENCAP about future LDD awareness for staff and prisoners are ongoing.

## Prisoners' Transfers: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests by prisoners in England to transfer to Scottish prisons are under consideration. [88163]

**Mr Blunt:** 13 applications for transfer from prisoners in England and Wales to prisons in Scotland are under consideration.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he last met the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Government to discuss arrangements for the transfer of prisoners between Scotland and England. [88164]

**Mr Blunt:** The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), has not met the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Government to discuss arrangements for the transfer of prisoners between Scotland and England.

The process for prisoners transferring between England and Wales and Scotland has been operating successfully since 1997 and there are no plans at this time to review the transfer arrangements. Officials are in regular contact about individual transfer requests.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners serving custodial sentences in England were transferred to Scottish prisons in each of the last five years. [88165]

**Mr Blunt:** From 1 January 2007 to the 31 December 2011 a total of 113 prisoners transferred from prisons in England and Wales to prisons in Scotland to continue serving sentences of imprisonment or to facilitate a period of temporary visits with close family.

The following table gives the number of prisoners transferred in each of the last five years:

| | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 26 | 0 |
| 2008 | 17 | 0 |
| 2009 | 17 | 0 |
| 2010 | 25 | 2 |
| 2011 | 24 | 2 |

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners serving custodial sentences in England made requests to transfer to prisons in Scotland in each of the last five years. [88166]

**Mr Blunt:** From 1 January 2007 to the 31 December 2011 a total of 149 prisoners submitted requests for transfer from prisons in England and Wales to prisons in Scotland to continue serving sentences of imprisonment or to facilitate a period of temporary visits with close family.

The following table gives the number of applications received in each of the last five years:

| | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 39 | 1 |
| 2008 | 34 | 0 |
| 2009 | 35 | 2 |
| 2010 | 18 | 1 |
| 2011 | 17 | 2 |

## Prisoners: Learning Disability

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that when an authorised person explains the effect of a conditional caution to offenders, including those with a learning disability, it is done in a way which is easily understood by the offender; and if he will make a statement. [88754]

**Mr Blunt:** The police and Crown Prosecution Service have guidance in the form of the Revised Code of Practice on Adult Conditional Cautions and the Directors Guidance on Adult Conditional Cautions to help them decide whether an offence is suitable for a conditional caution. This guidance contains a number of safeguards to ensure conditional cautions are used appropriately.

The Code of Practice for Conditional Cautions is clear that before a conditional caution can be administered the authorised person (usually a police officer) must ensure the offender understands the implications of accepting a conditional caution, including what is required from them to complete the conditions, and that it will form part of their criminal record. The authorised person should also ensure that the offender has had the opportunity to receive free and independent legal advice before accepting a condition caution.

Conditions must always be appropriate, proportionate and achievable and an offender must agree to accept them. It is a requirement of the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Codes of Practice that individuals who are detained by the police and are identified as having mental health issues including learning disabilities should be provided with an appropriate adult. It is the appropriate adult's role to give advice and assistance to the detainee and to assist them in understanding the procedures being followed, including any interview or any proposals to give a caution. The police have guidance on recognising and responding to people with mental ill health or learning disabilities.

## Prisons: Energy

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) further to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 505-6W, on prisons: energy, what proportion of the prison estate the sample sites represented; [87898]

(2) what estimate he has made of how much energy has been saved at each prison where energy saving technology has been installed since May 2010; and what the monetary value of the saving was; [87900]

(3) how much was invested at each prison where energy saving technology has been introduced since May 2010; [87901]

(4) how many prison sites have not installed any energy saving technology since May 2010. [87902]

**Mr Blunt:** Further to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 505-6W, all public sector prisons were sampled.

The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide an estimate of how much energy has been saved and the monetary value of the saving at each prison where energy saving technology has been installed since May 2010 as the information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Justice is unable to say how much has been invested in energy saving technology at each prison since May 2010 as this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the following table shows the amounts invested through the Department of Energy and Climate Change-funded Salix scheme at each prison.

The Ministry of Justice is unable to say how many prison sites have not installed any energy saving technology since May 2010 as the information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*Amounts invested through the Department of Energy and Climate Change-funded Salix scheme at prisons in England and Wales since May 2010*

| *Date* | *Prison* | *Project* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 September 2010 | Woodhill | Water Controls | 29,707.00 |
| 13 September 2010 | Woodhill | Lighting | 47,588.00 |
| 22 July 2010 | Long Lartin | Boiler Controls | 38,704.00 |
| 28 July 2010 | Whitemoor | Boiler Controls | 40,138.00 |
| 28 July 2010 | Whitemoor | Boiler Controls | 1,250.40 |
| 23 October 2010 | Whitemoor | Lighting | 54,781.56 |
| 20 November 2010 | Whitemoor | Lighting | 17,279.17 |
| 9 December 2010 | Whitemoor | Voltage Optimisation | 98,799.88 |
| 16 December 2010 | Full Sutton | Voltage Optimisation | 80,201.98 |
| 17 December 2010 | Manchester | Voltage Optimisation | 127,040.25 |
| 20 December 2010 | Wakefield | Voltage Optimisation | 49,782.40 |
| 14 March 2011 | Belmarsh | Voltage Optimisation | 55,696.00 |
| 14 March 2011 | Belmarsh | Voltage Optimisation | 55,696.00 |
| 14 March 2011 | Belmarsh | Voltage Optimisation | 22,278.40 |
| 28 March 2011 | Frankland | Voltage Optimisation | 163,238.02 |
| 10 May 2011 | Frankland | Lighting | 30,377.40 |
| 27 June 2011 | Manchester | Lighting | 37,804.77 |
| 30 June 2011 | Frankland | Core Plant | 19,800.00 |
| 29 November 2010 | Bristol | Lighting | 4,257.35 |
| 29 November 2010 | Bristol | Insulation | 4,614.30 |
| 29 November 2010 | Bristol | Core Plant | 27,691.23 |
| 29 November 2010 | Bristol | Lighting | 1,308.00 |
| 2 March 2011 | Bristol | Building Management System | 33,046.00 |
| 16 December 2010 | Dorchester | Lighting | 10,537.91 |
| 30 January 2011 | Dorchester | Lighting | 15,315.00 |
| 14 March 2011 | Leyhill | Insulation | 33,720.60 |
| 14 March 2011 | Leyhill | Core Plant | 33,235.60 |
| 30 November 2010 | Ranby | Lighting | 59,551.00 |
| 31 December 2010 | Ranby | Lighting | 135,936.07 |
| 31 December 2010 | Gartree | Lighting | 40,079.67 |
| 31 December 2010 | Glen Parva | Lighting | 12,217.43 |
| 31 December 2010 | Onley | Voltage Optimisation | 60,186.00 |
| 31 December 2010 | Whatton | Heating Controls | 27,788.99 |
| 31 December 2010 | Glen Parva | Voltage Optimisation | 61,661.65 |
| 31 December 2010 | Gartree | Insulation | 25,076.69 |
| 1 November 2010 | Bedford | Voltage Optimisation | 35,174.80 |
| 30 June 2010 | Highpoint[1] | Lighting | 17,557.32 |
| 7 May 2010 | Highpoint[1] | Insulation | 10,887.08 |
| 15 June 2010 | Hollesley Bay | Insulation | 60,485.47 |
| 15 June 2010 | Hollesley Bay | Insulation | 2,937.50 |
| 1 July 2010 | Hollesley Bay | Insulation | 14,896.46 |
| 18 June 2010 | Norwich | Insulation | 43,780.03 |
| 18 June 2010 | Norwich | Insulation | 2,937.50 |
| 17 December 2010 | Feltham | Lighting | 34,993.00 |
| 17 December 2010 | Hewell | Lighting | 27,070.26 |
| 17 December 2010 | Hewell | Lighting | 23,571.50 |
| 17 December 2010 | Swinfen Hall | Lighting | 9,409.47 |
| 31 October 2010 | Deerbolt | Lighting | 3,959.21 |
| 31 October 2010 | Durham | Air Conditioning Controls | 6,943.08 |
| 31 October 2010 | Holme House | Lighting | 3,870.45 |
| 31 October 2010 | Holme House | Lighting | 16,473.76 |
| 31 October 2010 | Holme House | Lighting | 8,166.25 |
| 31 October 2010 | Low Newton | Lighting | 65,800.00 |

*Amounts invested through the Department of Energy and Climate Change-funded Salix scheme at prisons in England and Wales since May 2010*

| *Date* | *Prison* | *Project* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31 October 2010 | Low Newton | Core Plant | 3,963.25 |
| 17 December 2010 | Feltham | Lighting | 34,993.00 |
| 17 December 2010 | Hewell | Lighting | 27,070.26 |
| 17 December 2010 | Hewell | Lighting | 23,571.50 |
| 17 December 2010 | Swinfen Hall | Lighting | 9,409.47 |
| 31 October 2010 | Deerbolt | Lighting | 3,959.21 |
| 31 October 2010 | Durham | Air Conditioning Controls | 6,943.08 |
| 31 October 2010 | Holme House | Lighting | 3,870.45 |
| 31 October 2010 | Holme House | Lighting | 16,743.76 |
| 31 October 2010 | Holme House | Lighting | 8,166.25 |
| 31 October 2010 | Low Newton | Lighting | 6,580.00 |
| 31 October 2010 | Low Newton | Core Plant | 3,936.25 |
| 17 December 2010 | Feltham | Lighting | 34,993.00 |
| 17 December 2010 | Hewell | Lighting | 27,070.26 |
| 17 December 2010 | Hewell | Lighting | 23,571.50 |
| 17 December 2010 | Swinfen Hall | Lighting | 9,409.47 |
| 31 October 2010 | Deerbolt | Lighting | 3,959.21 |
| 31 October 2010 | Durham | Air Conditioning Controls | 6,943.08 |
| 31 October 2010 | Holme House | Lighting | 3,870.45 |
| 31 October 2010 | Holme House | Lighting | 16,473.76 |
| 31 October 2010 | Holme House | Lighting | 8,166.25 |
| 31 October 2010 | Low Newton | Lighting | 6,580.00 |
| 31 October 2010 | Low Newton | Core Plant | 3,996.25 |
|  |  |  | 2,239,539.57 |

[1] Training centre at Highpoint prison.

## Prisons: Foreign Nationals

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the UK Borders Agency and *(b)* the Prison Officers' Association on the building of prisons to accommodate foreign nationals only; [88696]

(2) further to the statement of 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1061, on foreign national offenders, how many prisons will be built to accommodate only foreign nationals; and where such prisons will be located; [88697]

(3) pursuant to his oral statement of 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1061, how many prisoner places will be provided in the proposed new build prisons for foreign nationals; [88698]

**Mr Blunt:** No prisons are being built to accommodate foreign nationals only. The prison capacity programme is ongoing and will deliver two new prisons in 2012, HMP Thameside and HMP Oakwood, neither of which is intended to hold foreign nationals only.

As stated on 19 December 2011, it is our intention to open more foreign national only prisons. This will be achieved by the conversion of existing prisons to this function. Joint work is under way between UKBA and NOMS to identify appropriate establishments for this purpose.

## Harassment

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to give courts powers to impose community treatment orders in respect of persons convicted under the provisions of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. [87527]

**Mr Blunt:** The courts already have powers to impose both community sentences and suspended sentence orders for offences under the Protection from Harassment Act and can therefore impose alcohol, drug and mental health treatment requirements as part of these sentences, where appropriate. In addition, accredited offending behaviour programmes and other interventions can be included as a requirement of a community order, a suspended sentence order or as licence condition, in appropriate cases.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding is available for existing treatment programmes or clinics for persons convicted of stalking offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. [87528]

**Mr Blunt:** There is no funding that is specifically allocated for the treatment of offenders convicted of stalking offences. Offenders are directed to appropriate programmes or services to address relevant aspects of their criminal behaviour following assessment of their underlying risk factors.

## Rights of Accused: EU Action

**Naomi Long:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made in the negotiations on the draft directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings; and if he will make a statement. [87358]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The UK did not opt in to this proposed directive, although we support the principle behind it, because the Government considered that some of the provisions in the Commission's proposals would have an adverse impact on our ability to investigate and prosecute offences effectively. Good progress has been made in negotiations, but the Government still have some concerns about the content of the draft directive. The relevant Committee of the European Parliament is yet to publish a draft report in response to the Commission's proposal. On 13 December, the right hon. the Lord McNally wrote to the European Scrutiny Committees to update them about the progress of the negotiations.

The Government will continue to engage in the negotiations. In the event our concerns about the initial draft of the directive are satisfactorily dealt with, we will consider whether we should apply to opt into it once it has been adopted, as our protocol to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union allows. A well-drafted directive could be of considerable benefit to British subjects arrested in other member states. We will consult Parliament about any decision to apply to opt in.

### Sentencing: Drugs

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are serving a custodial sentence for the possession of a *(a)* class A and *(b)* class B drug. [88420]

**Mr Blunt:** As at 30 September 2011, there were 10,604 prisoners in England and Wales serving sentences for drug offences. This total included 561 who were serving sentences for drug possession, and a further 3,461 for possession with intent to supply. From the data held centrally it is not possible to separately identify the numbers serving sentences for possession by class of drug.

### Sexual Offences

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure sex offenders leaving prison on completion of their sentence move into settled accommodation that conforms to the requirements of registration; and if he will make a statement. [85918]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

If an offender is released from a sentence of 12 months or more, he or she will be subject to supervision on licence for a specified period.

During this time, they must only reside at an address approved by their supervising probation officer. During the custodial part of the sentence, there will be discussion between the probation officer and the offender about what is a suitable release address. Failure to reside at an address approved by the probation officer can result in the offender being recalled to custody.

Sex offender registration requirements usually last much longer than the post-supervision licence and can be indefinite.

Offenders sentenced to less than 12 months imprisonment will not be released on a licence, but if they have been convicted of a sexual offence they will be subject to notification requirements. This means they will be required to notify their personal details with the police, including name, address, date of birth and national insurance number. Offenders are required to notify within three days of becoming subject to notification and must notify annually or whenever their details change for the duration of their notification requirements.

The Home Office has recently consulted on four proposals to further strengthen existing notification requirements, including the requirement to notify weekly where an offender is registered as "no fixed abode". We will publish our conclusions in due course.

### Witnesses: Finance

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department allocated to the Witness Service in each year from 1997 to 2011. [87930]

**Mr Blunt:** The Witness Service, which provides support to witnesses appearing in magistrates and Crown courts in England and Wales, is part of the core service provided by Victim Support, the national charity for victims and witnesses of crime which is principally funded by the Ministry of Justice.

The table details the total amount of central Government grant funding provided to Victim Support between 2000-01 and 2010-11 and the amount of this grant allocated each year by Victim Support to the Witness Service. Between 2000-01 and 2007-08 separate Witness Service arrangements existed for magistrates and Crown courts; figures are provided for both. Since 2008-09 there has been a single Witness Service covering all of those courts.

Records of the amount of funding allocated to the Witness Service prior to 2000-01 are not available. The total amount of funding to be allocated to the Witness Service in the current financial year (2011-12) has yet to be finalised.

£

| *Financial year* | *Magistrates court witness service* | *Crown court witness service* | *Total witness service funding* | *Total MOJ grant to victim support* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 1,811,111 | 2,048,003 | 3,859,114 | 18,550,000 |
| 2001-02 | 2,700,000 | 1,683,801 | 4,383,801 | 25,000,000 |
| 2002-03 | 4,956,671 | 2,058,518 | 7,015,189 | 28,000,000 |
| 2003-04 | 5,986,147 | 2,103,379 | 8,089,526 | 28,450,000 |
| 2004-05 | 5,900,000 | 1,968,506 | 7,868,506 | 30,000,000 |
| 2005-06 | 5,826,198 | 1,855,606 | 7,681,804 | 30,000,000 |
| 2006-07 | 6,184,839 | 2,137,470 | 8,322,309 | 30,880,000 |
| 2007-08 | 5,815,725 | 2,103,000 | 7,918,725 | 35,784,263 |
| 2008-09 | n/a | n/a | 7,918,725 | 37,000,000 |
| 2009-10 | n/a | n/a | 7,912,696 | 37,000,000 |
| 2010-11 | n/a | n/a | 7,912,696 | 45,000,000 |

### Young Offenders: Learning Difficulty

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that, if a police officer gives a youth caution to a person, including someone with a learning disability, the processes associated with the caution are communicated in an accessible way and where the offender requires support to communicate or understand the process, communicated in the presence of the appropriate adult; and if he will make a statement. [88756]

**Mr Blunt:** Provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill introduce youth cautions for young offenders aged under 18 years which will, when implemented, replace the current final warning scheme. The provisions require the police to explain the effect of the youth caution to the young person in ordinary language. Guidance will set out that this information must be given orally and supplemented with written information clearly explaining the effect of the youth caution. All youth cautions must be given in the presence of an appropriate adult if the young person is under 17 or otherwise deemed vulnerable. This could include having a learning disability.

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on whether when a police officer gives a youth caution to a person, including someone with a learning disability, the processes associated with the caution are communicated in an accessible way and where the offender requires support to communicate or understand the process, communicated in the presence of the appropriate adult; and if he will make a statement. [88757]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice has received written representations on this subject from Mencap. Lord McNally, the Minister of State for Justice, met Lord Rix, Lord Wigley, Lord Ramsbotham and Mencap representatives on 14 December 2011 to discuss Mencap's suggested amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill including those related to youth cautions.

## Youth Justice

**Mrs Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the Public Bill Committee on the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 794-97, on young adult offenders, what specific measures he has introduced to create flexibility to enable people within the criminal justice system to begin to address this age group as a priority. [85481]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government's reform agenda is to drive improved results for all offenders, including young adults.

Measures are also being undertaken to improve outcomes for young adult offenders through the process of transition from the youth justice system to the criminal justice system at the age of 18. The Youth to Adult Portal, which is now being piloted, has been constructed to enable timely sharing of offender assessments and other information about offenders. The Youth Justice Board with the National Offender Management Service have recently begun the process of reviewing the operation of the national joint Youth Justice Board/National Offender Management Service protocol. The YJB and NOMS are working collaboratively to replace the current community focused protocol, introduce new guidance for transitions within custody and provide examples of effective practice. This will assist in establishing an agreed transitions process which promotes understanding between youth offending teams, probation trusts and young offender institutions and more effective use of the information available at critical stages in the transition process.

The Ministry of Justice is also running a programme of Payment by Results pilots. Providers will be paid for their success at rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending, and will be given increased freedoms to work with offenders in new and innovative ways. Young adult offenders are included within the scope of the pilots at Peterborough and Doncaster prisons. They are also included within the scope available to the local justice reinvestment pilots in Greater Manchester and London though it will be for local areas themselves to decide how they prioritise their work with regard to the risk of reoffending rather than the age of particular offenders. We will keep the position of young adult offenders under review as we develop further Payment by Results proposals.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 11 January 2012*

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Departmental Written Questions

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by her Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79542]

**Damian Green:** From May 2010 to 30 November 2011, 39 ordinary written questions and 21 named day written question remained unanswered for a period of two calendar months. This includes periods that cover non-sitting Fridays, weekends, public holidays and periods of recess, when questions cannot be answered.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many questions for written answer received by her Department have not received an answer within *(a)* one month, *(b)* two months and *(c)* three months or more since May 2010. [81146]

**Damian Green:** The information requested is provided in the following table. These data include periods that cover non-sitting Fridays, weekends, public holidays and periods of recess, when questions cannot be answered.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Number of written questions for answer from May 2010-30 November 2011 | 5,902 |
| Written answers overdue by 1-2 months | 165 |
| Written answers overdue by 2-3 months | 41 |
| Written answers overdue by three or more months | 19 |

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85063]

**Damian Green:** The information requested, to November 2011, is provided in the following table.

*Named day questions receiving a substantive answer within five working days*

| | *Number received* | *Percentage answered within five working days* |
|---|---|---|
| June 2011 | 99 | 82.3 |
| July 2011 | 96 | 68.8 |
| August 2011 | 0 | — |
| September 2011 | 75 | 72 |
| October 2011 | 54 | 92.6 |
| November 2011 | 143 | 72 |

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

### Driving Offences

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to permit persons found guilty of an offence under section 14(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to attend a driving safety course paid for by the offender that includes instruction on the benefits of wearing seat belts in lieu of a fine; and if she will make a statement. [R] [78680]

**Nick Herbert:** The police can offer such courses at their discretion. They do not require Government permission.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 9 November 2011 concerning Mrs Sabba Ali. [87652]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

A reply has now been sent.

### Police: Rural Areas

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure the provision of funding for rural police forces. [89078]

**Nick Herbert:** The vast majority of Government funding is allocated using the police allocation formula (PAF). PAF distributes funding based on relative police workload, taking into account population sparsity to address the specific needs of rural forces.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Computers

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 460W, on computers, if the House of Commons Commission will consider alternative ways of disposing of obsolete laptop and desktop computers that would raise greater revenue per computer than was raised by the last disposal process. [88099]

**John Thurso:** The parliamentary ICT department has not identified any disposal options likely to raise more revenue per computer, but the Commission would be pleased to consider any option which could do so.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Maintenance

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to vary the statutory interest rate absent parents with assets valued over £65,000 are charged by the Child Support Agency. [87786]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Noel Shanahan:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he has any plans to vary the statutory interest rate absent parents with assets valued over £65,000 are charged by the Child Support Agency. [87786]

Child Support law prescribes that in specific circumstances the calculation used to determine child maintenance liability can be varied if it is 'just and equitable' to do so via the child support variations rules. One of these circumstances is when it is appropriate to allow the interest on any income produced by capital to be taken into account as income for child maintenance purposes.

Child Support legislation provides that in instances where a variation on these grounds is agreed, in order to calculate what income is derived from any capital held, the statutory rate of interest should be applied. As this is presently set at 8% we are obliged by law to adhere to this figure. This rate, which is used across government for a variety of purposes, is set by the Ministry of Justice and therefore the Commission is not in a position to alter the level. I should also add that the rate to be used is dependant on the jurisdiction within the UK within which the non-resident parent habitually resides. A parent living in England or Wales may pay a different rate to a parent living in Scotland. The rate is not intended to represent an amount which reflects the income a parent can guarantee to achieve from their asset. It is intended to reflect longer-term trends in interest rate levels, and therefore is not subject to fluctuation on a day-to-day basis.

Using this statutory rate provides Child Support Agency staff with a simple means to obtain an income figure where grounds for a departure or variation may exist. It means that they do not have to contend with complexities arising from the fact that the actual achievable return may vary considerably from case to case or over time, for example, due to market trends or the nature of the asset itself. There are currently no plans to amend the legislation in this area for the existing child maintenance schemes.

However, you may be interested to know that on 1 December 2011 the Government launched a public consultation on the Child Support Maintenance Calculations Regulations 2012 which will run until 23 February 2012. These Regulations will provide most of the detailed rules for calculating statutory child maintenance under the new scheme of child maintenance to be introduced in the course of 2012.

The Government are proposing that where a child maintenance calculation is varied under the new scheme, the actual income that is produced from any assets will be taken into account and the statutory rate of interest will not be applied to the asset. This is because in the new scheme child maintenance calculations will be based upon actual income data obtained from HMRC, rather than applying notional amounts based on a non-resident parent's assets.

The proposed Regulations, detailed consultation document and other related items can be found here:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/consultations.html

### Employment Schemes

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the funding arrangements are for Work programme providers which provide Mandatory Work Activity. [88558]

**Chris Grayling:** Each Mandatory Work Activity provider receives a single payment at the point a person starts on a work placement arranged by the provider, the amount depending on the individual contract. Mandatory Work Activity and the Work programme are entirely separate programmes and separately contracted, and the fact that a provider might deliver both has no bearing on funding arrangements.

### Housing Benefit: Fraud

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will support local authorities with funding to ensure that they continue to employ housing benefit fraud investigators until the commencement of universal credit in 2013. [87653]

**Steve Webb:** From 2013, the new Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) will be formed by consolidating the benefit and tax credit fraud investigation teams across DWP, local authorities and HMRC, which will enable them to undertake a single investigation for the first time. This will be a more efficient way of using investigative resources, and it will ensure the expertise that currently exists across all these areas is not lost.

Local authority staff will remain employed by local authorities, but they operate under SFIS powers, policies, processes and priorities. We will continue to work collaboratively with them to co-design an operational structure for SFIS from 2013.

### Pensions

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to improve transparency in pension charges and transfers before the introduction of auto-enrolment. [87667]

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to increase transparency in the charges, fees and commissions paid by consumers on private pensions; and if he will make a statement. [88762]

**Steve Webb:** On 15 December 2011, we published a consultation paper, 'Meeting future workplace pensions challenges: improving transfers and dealing with small pots', which seeks views and evidence on possible options to reduce the number of small pension pots and facilitate transfers to enable individuals to consolidate their pension saving.

The Government welcome recent initiatives, involving the National Association of Pension Funds and other stakeholders with an interest in pension provision, to develop an industry code of practice to support greater transparency in the charges made on workplace pensions.

### Child Poverty

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many children *(a)* in total, *(b)* with learning difficulties, *(c)* with autistic spectrum disorders, *(d)* with disabilities and *(e)* under the age of five are living in poverty in each (i) parliamentary constituency and (ii) local authority area in Scotland; [88156]

(2) how many households with children *(a)* aged under five and *(b)* of any age are living in poverty in each (i) parliamentary constituency and (ii) local authority area in Scotland. [88171]

**Maria Miller:** Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for small areas such as those requested. However, figures for Scotland are available.

Information about children with learning difficulties and with autistic spectrum disorders is not included in the HBAI datasets, therefore we are unable to provide the number and proportion of children in these groups in poverty.

Three survey years have been combined because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.

Statistics covering 2007-08 to 2009-10 are the most recent available.

*Table 1: Number and proportion of children (a) in total, (b) with disabilities and (c) under the age of five who are living in relative poverty before housing costs (BHC) in Scotland, 2007-08 to 2009-10*

| | *Number in relative poverty (Million)* | *Proportion in relative poverty (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| All children | 0.2 | 20 |
| Children with disabilities | [1]0.0 | 24 |
| Children aged under five | 0.1 | 22 |

[1] The number of children with disabilities in relative poverty is under 50,000.

*Table 2: Number and proportion of households with children (a) aged under five and (b) of any age, who are living in relative poverty BHC in Scotland, 2007-08 to 2009-10*

| | *Number in relative poverty (Million)* | *Proportion in relative poverty (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Households with children aged under five | 0.1 | 22 |
| All households with children (any age) | 0.1 | 20 |

*Notes*

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc
This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost rather than an after housing cost basis. For before housing costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for after housing costs they are.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for these HBAI figures is three financial years.
6. Number of children has been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children. In table 1, the number of children with disabilities is under 50,000.
7. Proportion of children in low-income households has been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
8. For this analysis, disability is defined as having any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity that leads to a significant difficulty with one or more areas of the individual's life. This is consistent with the definition of disability used in the HBAI publication. Everyone classified as disabled under this definition would also be classified as disabled under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), but these estimates do not reflect the total number of children covered by the DDA as the Family Resources Survey, the source of the Households Below Average Income series, does not fully collect this information.
9. This measure is defined as:
Relative poverty: children living in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of contemporary median household income before housing costs (BHC).
10. The Child Poverty Act 2010 sets three further income-based UK-wide targets to be met by 2020. The targets are based on the proportion of children living in households with combined low income and material deprivation, absolute low income and persistent poverty.

*Source:*
Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2009-10, DWP.

## HEALTH

### Dementia:

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what spending his Department has recently incurred on radio advertisements relating to dementia; and for what reason it has commissioned such advertisements. [87700]

**Mr Simon Burns:** In the 2011-12 financial year, the Department has spent £276,573 on radio advertising relating to dementia. The advertising formed part of the national dementia: early signs and symptoms campaign, which was commissioned to help more people receive an early diagnosis.

### Hearing Impaired: Children

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in Somerset were identified as deaf through the newborn hearing screening programme in each of the last five years. [88435]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not held centrally.

Information is available from the NHS Newborn Hearing Screening Programme website at:

http://hearing.screening.nhs.uk/statistics

### Meningitis: Vaccination

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on making pneumococcal conjugate vaccine available to adults in clinical risk groups; and if he will make a statement. [87954]

**Anne Milton:** There are two types of pneumococcal vaccine:

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV); and
Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV).

At present, the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prevenar 13) is recommended for use in the national childhood immunisation programme for children up to the age of five.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is awaiting the results of a major research study that is looking at how effective the Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prevenar 13 ) is in preventing pneumococcal disease in older people. The JCVI will consider the research findings as soon as they become available.

The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax) should continue to be used for the national pneumococcal programme for those aged 65 and over and at-risk groups aged two years and over.

### Mental Health Services

**Tony Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis a person diagnosed with a degenerative and progressive neurological condition who has been awarded NHS continuing health care may have it withdrawn; and if he will make a statement. [88803]

**Paul Burstow:** Those in receipt of NHS funded continuing health care will have their needs reviewed at least annually. If their needs no longer meet the eligibility requirements, funding for continuing health care will be withdrawn.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88576]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department for Communities and Local Government considers equality issues in exercising its functions, to comply with equality legislation and to ensure it understands how its activities will affect different people. The conclusions are used to inform policies and programmes in various ways. Sometimes this information is published in the form of an equality impact assessment, although there has never been a legal requirement to produce such documents.

During the period in question DCLG carried out 35 equality impact assessments.

### European Regional Development Fund

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will meet representatives of the Industrial Communities Alliance to discuss take-up of European regional development fund resources. [88538]

**Grant Shapps:** The Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my noble Friend Baroness Hanham, who is responsible for European regional development fund programmes in England, is arranging to meet the Industrial Communities Alliance to discuss take up of fund resources.

## TREASURY

### Bristol and West Building Society

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to protect the interests of holders of perpetual subordinated bonds originally issued by the Bristol and West Building Society. [78610]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Bristol and West permanent interest bearing securities were transferred to Bank of Ireland by court order in 2007 as part of a transfer of business. The Irish Minister of Finance announced on 2 December 2011, following Bank of Ireland's successful capital-raising exercise, that he is no longer considering applying for a subordinated liability order, which could have been used to write down the value of bonds including these securities.

As a matter of course the Government do not comment on or intervene in disputes between a bank and their bondholders.

### Get Britain Building Investment Fund

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to table 2.3 of his autumn statement (1) what *(a)* assumptions and *(b)* methodologies underlie the £50 million saving shown for the Get Britain Building investment fund in 2014-15; [87774]

(2) what *(a)* assumptions and *(b)* methodologies underlie the profile of the costings shown for the Get Britain Building investment fund in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15. [87773]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* The Get Britain Building investment fund will support building firms in unlocking the finance needed to get builders back to work. The programme will operate by making direct investments in specific projects through loans or taking equity stakes.

It is anticipated that the fund will invest £260 million and £160 million in England in 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively. Taking funding for the devolved Administrations into account, the investments in 2012-13 and 2013-14 will be £310 million and £190 million respectively. The time profile reflects the anticipated build programmes of supported projects.

Funding has been made available by the Government for this programme on the basis that it yields a return. It is forecast that £5 million and £50 million of receipts will be generated by these investments in 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively.

### Corporation Tax: Scotland

**John Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of receipts to the Exchequer from corporation tax from the transport sector in Scotland in each year since 2001. [88769]

**Mr Gauke:** The information is available only at disproportionate cost as HMRC does not hold details of corporation tax receipts data relating to specific sectors of economic activity at a country or regional level.

### Debts: Business

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with (i) the Bank of England and (ii) other banks on the operation of the market for corporate bonds. [77427]

**Mr Hoban:** The Treasury has regular discussions with the Bank of England and market participants, including banks, on overall financial market conditions and the market for corporate bonds. The Bank of England continues to operate its Asset Purchase Facility Corporate Bond Scheme to help facilitate the operation of the secondary market for corporate bonds. The latest information on this scheme can be found on the Bank of England's website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/apf/corporatebond/index.htm

More information on the Bank of England's Asset Purchase Facility can be found on its website, including the latest quarterly report here:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/other/markets/apf/quarterlyreport.htm

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had discussions with the Bank of England on the (i) underwriting and (ii) guaranteeing of business debt. [77428]

**Mr Hoban:** Both the Chancellor of the Exchequer and HM Treasury officials meet with officials from the Bank of England on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues.

### EU Budget: Contributions

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage change has been in the size of *(a)* the overall EU budget and *(b)* the UK's contribution to the EU budget in each of the last 10 years. [88759]

**Mr Hoban:** Details of EU budgets, including their overall sizes and the UK contributions to them, are published in the annual European Union Finances documents available on HM Treasury's public website

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/int_eu_statefraud.htm

### Money Advice Service: Northern Ireland

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Money Advice Service in Northern Ireland spent on advertising in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 to date; [89168]

(2) what funding was allocated to the Money Advice Service in Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much will be allocated in 2012-13; [89169]

(3) how many staff are employed by the Money Advice Service in Northern Ireland; [89170]

(4) whether there are any plans to reduce staff levels in the Money Advice Service in Northern Ireland; [89171]

(5) how many cases the Money Advice Service in Northern Ireland has taken on in each year since it was established. [89172]

**Mr Hoban:** The Money Advice Service is an independent body, funded by a levy on the financial services industry. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for approving its business plan and budget.

I have asked the Money Advice Service to respond to the detailed points you have raised in writing. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### National Insurance Contributions

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of receipts to the Exchequer from the employer element of national insurance contributions; and what proportion of the overall tax-take this represents in each financial year from 2000 to 2010. [87899]

**Mr Gauke:** Employer's national insurance receipts are provided in the following table. The proportion of total tax and NICs receipts this represents is also given in the table.

| | *Employer national insurance contributions (£ billion)* | *Total tax and NICs receipts[1] (£ billion)* | *Proportion of total tax and NICs receipts (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 35.7 | 360.4 | 10 |
| 2001-02 | 36.9 | 369.7 | 10 |
| 2002-03 | 37.1 | 375.6 | 10 |
| 2003-04 | 41.0 | 396.8 | 10 |
| 2004-05 | 44.5 | 426.5 | 10 |
| 2005-06 | 49.4 | 456.8 | 11 |
| 2006-07 | 50.7 | 485.8 | 10 |
| 2007-08 | 58.5 | 515.9 | 11 |
| 2008-09 | 55.7 | 508.0 | 11 |
| 2009-10 | 54.7 | 477.8 | 11 |
| 2010-11 | 55.5 | 520.1 | 11 |

[1] Consistent with supplementary table 2.8 from the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR)'s Autumn 2011 Economic Fiscal Outlook. Historic figures are consistent with the equivalent table in previous Budget publications produced by the OBR and HMT.

### Northern Rock plc

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the first coupon payment on the new convertible debt in the sale of Northern Rock is due to be paid; and what further receipts he expects in each of the next three years. [83460]

**Mr Hoban:** Virgin Money issued to HM Treasury, on completion of the sale on 1 January 2012, Tier 1 Capital Notes with a par value of £150 million and a coupon of 10.5%.

The Capital Notes are designed to be CRD IV compliant. In order to be compliant, the coupon will have to be conditional. The coupon on the Capital Notes will be conditional in several ways; for example Virgin Money would be unable to pay interest if it had insufficient distributable reserves or if, after payment of such interest, it would not meet its capital resources requirement.

Interest accrues from the first anniversary of the issue of this debt, and the first interest payment is expected to be made in 2013.

### Regional Growth Fund: Taxation

**Mr Watts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on taxation of Regional Growth Fund grants. [83398]

**Mr Gauke:** There are no special tax exemptions for grants. A private sector beneficiary must record a grant as income in their accounts which wilt affect their overall tax position.

### Tax Credit

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of tax credit claims which are awaiting processing. [85896]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* At the close of business on 6 December 2011 there were around 50,000 new tax credit claims to be processed.

### Taxation

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate HM Revenue and Customs has made of the amount of underpaid tax in the years up to financial year 2007-08; [84307]

(2) what his estimate is of the amount which will be repaid to people who were over-taxed in the tax years up to 2007-08. [84308]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* Most people within PAYE pay the right amount of tax during the year, but some customers pay either too much or too little.

HMRC set up the Open Case Programme to tackle the cases relating to 2007-08 and earlier years which were still to be cleared when their new computer system came in. The Programme is on track to complete this work by the end of 2012.

HMRC estimates that when the Programme is complete repayments worth around £2.8 billion for 2003-04 through to 2007-08 will have been issued and a further £236 million will have been collected.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Education

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost of the Enhanced Learning Credits scheme was in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; [88385]

(2) how many service personnel used the Enhanced Learning Credits scheme in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; [88389]

(3) what proportion of course fees has been claimed by service personnel on average through the Enhanced Learning Credits scheme; [88437]

(4) what the average level has been of the contribution made by the Government towards the cost of course fees undertaken by service personnel through the Enhanced Learning Credits scheme. [88438]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence promotes lifelong learning among members of the armed forces and this is encouraged through the Learning Credits schemes. The Enhanced Learning Credit (ELC) scheme is designed to complement the Standard Learning Credits scheme by providing larger scale help to personnel who qualify, with a single payment of £1,000 or £2,000 (dependent upon length of service) in each of a maximum of three separate financial years, to help pay towards the cost of higher-level learning. It remains available for up to 10 years after discharge.

ELC is not a refund scheme and operates by payment being made direct to a registered training provider. Training by this funding stream is subject to a minimum 20% personal contribution.

The following table lists the amount paid to registered training providers and the number of service personnel and leavers who have accessed the scheme:

| *Financial year* | *Total number of claimants* | *Amount paid to registered training providers (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 6,500 | 5.7 |
| 2008-09 | 7,900 | 10.1 |
| 2009-10 | 7,600 | 9.8 |
| 2010-11 | 10,400 | 14.9 |

The ELC Scheme is administered under contract by G4S who hold all records relating to claims for this type of funding. However, no management information is compiled on the proportion of course fees claimed on average or on the Government's contribution. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel suffering from post traumatic stress disorder received specialist treatment from the NHS in the last 12 months. [88322]

**Mr Robathan:** During the period 1 December 2010 to 30 November 2011, 229 service personnel were admitted to NHS in-patient facilities under the co-ordination of the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust, which has the lead for the provision of mental health in-patient services to service personnel. Of that number, some 20 were diagnosed on admission with post traumatic stress disorder.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the relative benefits of live firing training for the armed forces and the use of simulators. [88665]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence continuously and objectively assesses the relative benefits of live fire training and the use of simulation, some areas of assessment being more mature than others.

Simulation is increasingly used for training purposes by all three armed services. However, they all acknowledge that simulation cannot fully replicate the operational environment and that a balance must be struck between simulation and live fire training.

### Marines: Rescue Services

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many callouts RMB Chivenor received from each local authority in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [87941]

**Nick Harvey:** The information is not held in the format requested. All requests for assistance from the emergency services throughout the United Kingdom (police, fire, ambulance and coastguard) are handled by the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre based at RAF Kinloss. The centre is responsible for tasking and co-ordinating all of the UK's search and rescue helicopter teams.

The number of callouts tasked to Royal Marine Base Chivenor in each of the last five years is provided in the following table:

| | *Number of callouts* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Wales* | *Maritime*[1] |
| 2006 | 168 | 101 | 24 |
| 2007 | 135 | 94 | 27 |
| 2008 | 150 | 84 | 27 |
| 2009 | 192 | 129 | 18 |
| 2010 | 189 | 133 | 17 |
| 2011[2] | 128 | 107 | 10 |

[1] Maritime incidents are those that occur more than three miles out from the coastline. [2] Up to 31 October 2011.

### Yemen

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 665-6W, on Yemen, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on whether units of the Yemeni security forces trained by the UK have been involved in human rights violations against protesters. [87947]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** I have not had any discussions with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on this matter.

While there have been numerous allegations of human rights abuses being committed by elements of the Yemen Security Forces, on both sides of the political divide, we have seen no evidence confirming the involvement of units that have received UK training.

## SCOTLAND

### Employment

13. **Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effect of the autumn statement on levels of employment in Scotland. [88264]

**David Mundell:** As a result of the Autumn Statement, more than £500 million has been added to the existing Scottish budget by the UK Government which provides the Scottish Government with significant resources in these uncertain times.

Additional action, such as credit easing, will support small and medium-sized businesses in Scotland to create jobs, and help to build a stronger, more balanced economy.

### Green Investment Bank

14. **Mike Crockart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the likely benefits to Scotland of the green investment bank. [88265]

**Michael Moore:** I have had regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on the potential benefits to Scotland and the rest of the UK of the Green Investment Bank.

Once the bank is established it will play a vital role in the Government's efforts to develop the low carbon economy in the whole of the UK, including Scotland, and I have no doubt it will act as a significant spur to investment.

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88609]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office will work closely with Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and with Co-operatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives where those steps are compatible with the purposes for which Parliament has voted it supply.

### Sovereignty

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his policy is on whether an in or out referendum on the future of the Union between England and Scotland is held as soon as possible. [88692]

**David Mundell:** It is the Government's clear view that the Scottish Parliament does not have the legal power to legislate for any referendum on independence. That is why the Secretary of State for Scotland published a consultation to seek views on how to deliver a legal, fair and decisive referendum. I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Scotland of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 51-72.

## TRANSPORT

### A31

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the cost of the *(a)* delay to and *(b)* diversion of traffic arising from the closure of local roads leading to the Canford Bottom roundabout on the A31 in spring 2012. [88110]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The cost of the delay to traffic arising from the closure of local roads is estimated at £343,000 per week. This is based on the DFT market value of £11.28 for an average vehicle being delayed per hour.

The cost arising from the diversion of traffic due to local road closures has been estimated at £245,700 per week. This is based on an average distance per vehicle of six miles at 45p a mile (a figure suggested by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), which includes fuel costs, wear and tear, insurance etc).

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her estimate is of the additional cost to the public purse of reducing by one week the period of total closure of access from local roads to the Canford Bottom roundabout on the A31; and if she will make a statement. [88113]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The estimate of the additional cost to the public purse of reducing by one week the period of total closure of access from local roads to the Canford Bottom roundabout on the A31 is £360,000.

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* earliest and *(b)* latest time is (i) on each weekday and (ii) at weekends contractors will be working on the Canford Bottom junction improvement during the period when all other local roads are to be closed. [88129]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* During the proposed programme of side road closures, our contractor will be working continuously from 7.30 am on Mondays day and night until 5.30 pm on Saturdays. On Sundays they will be working from 7.30 am to 5.30 pm.

### Coastguard Agency: Finance

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department plans to provide for the annual running costs of *(a)* the new Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) operations centre in Fareham and *(b)* existing MCA centres in the remainder of the comprehensive spending review period. [87961]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) will provide for the running costs of its estate (including the Maritime Operations Centre) within the departmental expenditure limits set out in Department for Transport's comprehensive spending review. The detail of this is published in the MCA's Business Plan (Section E) which is available on the MCA's website

www.dft.gov.uk/mca

and in the Libraries of both Houses.

In respect of the new Maritime Operations Centre in Fareham the MCA has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG); this is a statement of intent for both sides regarding the transfer of the Fareham site to the MCA.

This MOU does not stipulate any financial commitments; this is currently subject to ongoing negotiation between the MCA and the DCLG and has yet to be agreed. The Fareham site is an existing government property and therefore the MCA's use of it will be of net benefit to the UK taxpayer.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is the *(a)* minimum, *(b)* maximum and *(c)* average time taken by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to enter registered keeper details for new vehicles. [88546]

**Mike Penning:** The specific information requested is not recorded. The vast majority of new vehicles are registered through the Automated First Registration and Licensing system (88%), whereby all the information is transferred automatically from the manufacturers system to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's database. This update is instantaneous.

For those new vehicles that are registered manually via the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's local office network the entire transaction has to be keyed into the system. Although the average time taken to key just the keeper's name and address is 30 seconds, the complete transaction can take just over 17 minutes to complete.

### Fuels: Sulphur

**Dr Thérèse Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to review the adoption of the International Maritime Organisations limit on sulphur content of marine fuels so that the UK is in line with other EU member states. [88542]

**Mike Penning:** The new sulphur limits for marine fuel that were agreed at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as part of the revision of Annex VI of the MARPOL convention also need to be incorporated into European legislation.

The UK, along with other European member states, is considering a draft proposal to align EU legislation to the MARPOL standard. Once EU legislation to this effect has been adopted, the Government will take the necessary steps to transpose it into domestic legislation, thereby also implementing the sulphur provisions of the revised MARPOL Annex VI in UK law.

### M54: M6

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the case for connecting the M54 with the M6 toll road; and if she will make a statement. [88952]

**Mike Penning:** The statement of 26 October 2010, *Official Report,* column 177, by the then Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), "Investment in Highways and Local Transport Schemes" identified the M54/M6/M6 Toll Link road scheme as a 'future scheme' for potential construction in future spending review periods and as one of four schemes to be reviewed by the Highways Agency.

In conducting the review the Agency has looked again at the scheme options currently under consideration to ensure these remain the most appropriate. The business case for the scheme has also been revisited to ensure that it is as up to date as possible.

The Department for Transport is currently considering the allocation of development funding for the 'future schemes'. This would see investment in a small number of schemes to progress pre-construction work and thereby maintain a pipeline of major investment in the strategic road network. Any announcements will be made in due course.

### M6: West Midlands

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will hold discussions with local authorities in the West Midlands on the possibility of extending the M6 toll road. [88951]

**Mike Penning:** My officials regularly engage with authorities in the West Midlands, and would be willing to discuss the possibility of extending the M6 Toll.

### Road Signs and Markings

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to make greater use of vehicle information signs on motorways and A roads to inform motorists of congestion, accidents and road closures; and if she will make a statement. [87695]

**Mike Penning:** Following the recent Traffic Signs Regulations review, undertaken by the Department for Transport, the Highways Agency now have greater ability to inform drivers about traffic conditions. For example, signs can now be set to;

Give advance warning of severe weather (up to 24-hours in advance of a forecast event),

Give multi-modal messages warning of delays to other forms of transport (for example a closure of an airport or major train station).

Furthermore, the Agency are continually improving their information provision to customers with initiatives such as:

Improved travel time legends to show the time it takes to travel between two points affected by congestion or delays.

Legends that can be set to inform drivers when a closed road will re-open.

Legends to inform drivers that a road has now re-opened.

### Roads

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the importance of roads to *(a)* reducing congestion, *(b)* increasing road safety and *(c)* economic growth; and if she will make a statement. [88707]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The Department collects and publishes a range of official statistics related to traffic and the road network. Most of these statistics are summarised in "Transport Statistics Great Britain", the Department's main annual statistical compendium publication, the 37th edition of which was published on 15 December 2011. Congestion related information includes changes to average speeds on local authority A roads and percentage of journeys deemed to be on time on the strategic road network.

The Government published a strategic road safety framework in May 2011, with a focus on high-risk groups in the short term and longer term benefits from technology and safer driving.

The Government's Growth Review and National Infrastructure Plan, published in November 2011, identifies transport as a key economic infrastructure sector and, through the Autumn Statement, an additional £1 billion of new investment will be used to tackle areas of congestion and improve the national road network.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88608]

**Mr Paterson:** As my Department has no policy responsibility for co-operatives in Northern Ireland—these are devolved matters for the Northern Ireland Executive—we have no opportunity to mark the United Nation International Year of Co-operatives in 2012.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88372]

**Mr Paterson:** The Northern Ireland Office has not used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88588]

**Mr Paterson:** The Northern Ireland Office considers equality issues in exercising its functions, to comply with equality legislation and to ensure it understands how its activities will affect different people. In the specified period, the Northern Ireland Office has not undertaken any equality impact assessments.

## JUSTICE

### Young Offenders: Health Education

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information is collected from prisoners on their *(a)* health and *(b)* education on entry to the secure estate; and whether any other information is collected on entry. [87920]

**Mr Blunt:** All newly arriving prisoners into prison are screened by a trained nurse or trained officer to assess their health needs and to ensure appropriate treatment. People with a mental health problem, or vulnerable to suicide, are referred for a mental health assessment.

Prisoners are also screened or assessed for literacy, language and numeracy skills and where a need is identified a referral is made to the establishment's education provider.

Other recorded details of newly arriving prisoners include the name and contact details of their next of kin or nominated contact, the prisoner's ethnic group, and their religion (including nil religion). Newly arrived prisoners also undergo a cell sharing risk assessment for potential harm from and to others and screening is also carried out to identify any risks of self-harm.

All prisoners must also be photographed in accordance with the National Security Framework. Features that will aid identification including tattoos, scars, and biometric data must also be recorded.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88722]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development allocated funding to sponsor apprenticeships as follows:

April 2010 to March 2011: £20,000
April 2011 to March 2012: £10,000
April 2012 to March 2013: Not yet allocated.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [88000]

**Mr Duncan:** DFID spent the following amounts on voluntary redundancies between September and November 2011 in line with the terms of the Civil Service Compensation scheme.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| September 2011 | 154,580 |
| October 2011 | 52,516 |
| November 2011 | 138,452 |

### Developing Countries: Agriculture

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on supporting agricultural production in developing countries in each year since 1997. [88517]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not measure aggregate spend on support for agricultural production, as a wide range of activities supported by DFID contribute directly and indirectly to agricultural production. However, support for increasing agriculture productivity has been a major focus of DFID's agricultural research budget which has increased from £35.6 million in 2005-06 to £70 million in 2010-11, DFID's agricultural research budget has funded a wide range of research projects, including crop research by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a consortium of international agricultural research centres. CGIAR rice and maize breeding is attributed with lifting two million people out of poverty per year in India and 740,000 per year in Africa. DFID has also co-funded GALVmed (Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines) to make the vaccine for east coast fever (ECF) more accessible and affordable to livestock keepers. ECF is a tick-transmitted disease that threatens more than 25 million cattle across eastern and southern Africa each year.

### Developing Countries: Biofuels

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to address the loss of agricultural land due to biofuel production in developing countries. [88326]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to ensuring biofuel production does not jeopardise food security of poor people in developing countries. We also recognise that biofuel production can play a positive role in promoting access to energy and agricultural development, providing the production systems benefit smallholder farmers and appropriate safeguards on land acquisition are in place.

Together with other Government Departments, DFID has been successful in ensuring that UK and EC policy takes into account the impact (positive and negative) of biofuels on developing countries. We are currently contributing to the Department for Energy and Climate Change's new bioenergy strategy (to be published later in 2012) to ensure biofuel feedstocks sourced from developing countries do not adversely affect food security, for example by converting land used for food production to biofuel production. It is worth noting that under the Government's renewable transport fuels obligation, which is the principal mechanism for increasing biofuel use, less than 0.1% of UK biofuel has been reported as coming from Africa since the obligation came into force in 2008.

### Developing Countries: Business

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist the UK's bilateral partner countries to improve the conditions for doing business in their countries; if he will place in the Library examples of UK-funded development programmes that have improved business conditions in developing countries; if he will respond to the recommendations in the 2012 Doing Business Report; and if he will make a statement. [88766]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to making British international development policy more focused on boosting economic growth and wealth creation in developing countries. As part of this effort, 25 DFID country offices are implementing a wide range of business environment reform programmes that will improve the conditions for doing business in those countries. Moreover, DFID is supporting the Investment Climate Facility (ICF) for Africa to work with governments, private sector and other stakeholders in 29 countries across the continent to reduce the time, costs and risks of doing business in those countries; information on these programmes and their results can be found on the ICF website:

www.icfafrica.org

The UK Government through DFID, together with several other donors, also provides funding to the World Bank Group's Investment Climate Advisory Services (FIAS), which provides advice and assistance to developing country governments in support of their follow-up reforms to the annual Doing Business reports.

I will place in the Library a document which gives examples of other UK-funded bilateral and multilateral development programmes which are improving business conditions in developing countries: 'The Engine of Development, The Private Sector and Prosperity for Poor People' (DFID, 2011). This report is also available on our website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/Private-sector-approach-paper-May2011.pdf

Although the 2012 Doing Business report does not contain recommendations, DFID welcomes the report and its main findings. In particular, the global country ranking of the 'ease of doing business' is an influential way to stimulate reform in the countries where we work.

## EDUCATION

### Apprentices

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the merits of subsidising wage costs from the public purse for apprentices aged 16 to 18 years. [82556]

**Mr Hayes:** The Government have announced that we will incentivise small employers who have not been previously engaged in the apprenticeships programme to take on their first young apprentices aged 16-24. Up to 40,000 places will be available.

Apprenticeships deliver strong value for money, with good progression in employment and continued learning. Small employers, who often do not have human resource departments, or dedicated training budgets, can find it more challenging to take on their first apprentice, providing an incentive payment to support them in doing so will enable them to offer new opportunities to young people.

### Children: Disadvantaged

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Autumn Statement, how many disadvantaged two-year-olds in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency will receive 15 hours a week free early education and childcare. [87399]

**Sarah Teather:** The Autumn Statement provides that, by 2014, some 260,000 two-year-olds in England will be entitled to free early education.

The Government have announced that they plan to take a phased approach to the implementation of the new entitlement. The 20% most disadvantaged two-year-olds—around 130,000 children—will become eligible for free places from September 2013. The entitlement will then be extended to around 40% of two-year-olds—some 260,000 children—from September 2014.

The Government are currently consulting, until 3 February 2012, on the proposal that the first phase will include two-year-olds from families meeting the benefits criteria also used for free school meals, and looked-after children. The following table sets out the number of two-year-olds who would be likely to be eligible by local authority and region in this first phase. Numbers are not available by parliamentary constituency.

We will make a further announcement in due course about how we plan to determine eligibility for 40% of two-year-olds when the entitlement is extended from September 2014.

*Number of families with a child aged two, with an income of £16,190 or less and receiving child tax credit, April 2011*

| | *Number (to the nearest 100)* |
|---|---|
| *England* | 136,400 |
| | |
| *North East* | 7,900 |
| Darlington | 200 |
| Durham | 1,700 |
| Gateshead | 600 |
| Hartlepool | 400 |
| Middlesbrough | 600 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 900 |
| North Tyneside | 500 |
| Northumberland | 600 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 400 |
| South Tyneside | 500 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 700 |
| Sunderland | 1,000 |
| | |
| *North West* | 20,100 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 600 |
| Blackpool | 500 |
| Bolton | 1,000 |
| Bury | 500 |
| Cheshire East | 600 |
| Cheshire West and Chester | 700 |

*Number of families with a child aged two, with an income of £16,190 or less and receiving child tax credit, April 2011*

| | *Number (to the nearest 100)* |
|---|---|
| Cumbria | 900 |
| Halton | 500 |
| Knowsley | 600 |
| Lancashire | 2,700 |
| Liverpool | 1,800 |
| Manchester | 2,300 |
| Oldham | 800 |
| Rochdale | 900 |
| Salford | 900 |
| Sefton | 500 |
| St. Helens | 600 |
| Stockport | 600 |
| Tameside | 700 |
| Trafford | 300 |
| Warrington | 400 |
| Wigan | 800 |
| Wirral | 1,000 |
| | |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | 14,700 |
| Barnsley | 800 |
| Bradford | 1,900 |
| Calderdale | 600 |
| Doncaster | 1,000 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 400 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 1,100 |
| Kirklees | 1,000 |
| Leeds | 2,300 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 600 |
| North Lincolnshire | 400 |
| North Yorkshire | 700 |
| Rotherham | 800 |
| Sheffield | 1,600 |
| Wakefield | 1,000 |
| York | 300 |
| | |
| *East Midlands* | 10,800 |
| Derby | 700 |
| Derbyshire | 1,600 |
| Leicester | 1,400 |
| Leicestershire | 900 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,800 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,700 |
| Nottingham | 1,200 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,500 |
| Rutland | — |
| | |
| *West Midlands* | 16,800 |
| Birmingham | 4,700 |
| Coventry | 900 |
| Dudley | 900 |
| Herefordshire | 300 |
| Sandwell | 1,400 |
| Shropshire | 400 |
| Solihull | 400 |
| Staffordshire | 1,600 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 1,100 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 600 |
| Walsall | 1,200 |
| Warwickshire | 1,000 |
| Wolverhampton | 1,100 |
| Worcestershire | 1,100 |
| | |
| *East of England* | 13,100 |
| Bedford borough | 500 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,100 |
| Central Bedfordshire | 500 |
| Essex | 2,700 |
| Hertfordshire | 2,200 |
| Luton | 700 |
| Norfolk | 2,000 |
| Peterborough | 700 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 600 |
| Suffolk | 1,600 |
| Thurrock | 600 |
| | |
| *London* | 26,300 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 1,200 |
| Barnet | 800 |
| Bexley | 700 |
| Brent | 1,000 |
| Bromley | 700 |
| Camden | 600 |
| City of London | — |
| Croydon | 1,400 |
| Ealing | 1,100 |
| Enfield | 1,400 |
| Greenwich | 1,100 |
| Hackney | 1,000 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 500 |
| Haringey | 1,000 |
| Harrow | 400 |
| Havering | 500 |
| Hillingdon | 900 |
| Hounslow | 900 |
| Islington | 800 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 300 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 300 |
| Lambeth | 1,300 |
| Lewisham | 1,100 |
| Merton | 500 |
| Newham | 1,100 |
| Redbridge | 600 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 200 |
| Southwark | 900 |
| Sutton | 500 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,200 |
| Waltham Forest | 1,000 |
| Wandsworth | 700 |
| Westminster | 600 |
| | |
| *South East* | 16,800 |
| Bracknell Forest | 300 |
| Brighton and Hove | 600 |
| Buckinghamshire | 700 |
| East Sussex | 1,100 |
| Hampshire | 2,100 |
| Isle of Wight | 300 |
| Kent | 3,300 |
| Medway | 700 |
| Milton Keynes | 800 |
| Oxfordshire | 1,000 |
| Portsmouth | 600 |
| Reading | 400 |
| Slough | 500 |
| Southampton | 900 |
| Surrey | 1,600 |
| West Berkshire | 300 |

*Number of families with a child aged two, with an income of £16,190 or less and receiving child tax credit, April 2011*

| | *Number (to the nearest 100)* |
|---|---|
| West Sussex | 1,300 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | — |
| Wokingham | 200 |
| | |
| *South West* | 10,000 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 200 |
| Bournemouth | 400 |
| Bristol, City of | 1,200 |
| Cornwall | 900 |
| Devon | 1,200 |
| Dorset | 700 |
| Gloucestershire | 800 |
| Isles of Scilly— | |
| North Somerset | 400 |
| Plymouth | 700 |
| Poole | 300 |
| Somerset | 900 |
| South Gloucestershire | 500 |
| Swindon | 600 |
| Torbay | 400 |
| Wiltshire | 700 |

*Notes*:

1. These indicative figures are derived from a sample. Numbers at local authority level are relatively small, so are subject to statistical error. In forecasting eligibility for the two-year-old offer, local authorities may also want to draw on other available information, such as numbers and proportions of school age children known to be eligible for free school meals, and demographic projections. Please note that the table will have no figure where the number of children eligible within a local authority is less than 100.

2. Figures are estimates, subject to statistical error. 95% Confidence intervals for an estimate of 500 children are plus or minus 88 children; for an estimate of 1,000 are plus or minus 124; and for an estimate of 2,000 are plus or minus 175 (for couples with children, lone parents imply a larger confidence interval)

2. No adjustment is made to reflect that some families will have more than one child aged two.

3. Individual LA totals may not sum to regional or England total due to rounding.

*Source*:

HMRC

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

## Early Intervention Grant

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much each recipient organisation received from the Early Intervention Grant in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [87729]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 20 December 2012]:* The Early Intervention Grant (EIG) is an un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated grant to local authorities in England which came into effect in April 2011. The grant replaced a number of funding streams to local authorities which ended in March 2011. The allocations for both 2010-11 and 2011-12 are available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/

## Email

**Stephen Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his special advisers (1) sought legal advice as to whether the deletion of private emails concerning Government business sent or received by him or his special advisers constitutes a breach of section 77 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; [88073]

(2) have used private email accounts to discuss the possible dismissal of officials in his Department; [88074]

(3) used private email accounts to discuss (i) the free school application by Katherine Birbalsingh and (ii) any other free school application; [88075]

(4) used private email accounts to discuss the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [88076]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The Department seeks legal advice on a wide variety of matters related to its functions, and Ministers and Special Advisers discuss a range of issues using different media. Legal advice is subject to legal professional privilege and the Department does not routinely disclose whether or not it has taken such advice on particular matters. The Information Commissioner published guidance on 15 December 2011 concerning information held in private email accounts. The Cabinet Office is considering this and will issue further guidance to Departments.

## GCSE

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE (i) in total and (ii) including English and mathematics in (A) 1997 and (B) 2010. [73233]

**Mr Gibb:** The available information is given in the following table.

*Percentage of pupils in comprehensive and independent mainstream schools who achieved five or more A* to C grades at GCSE or equivalent in total and including English and Mathematics, 1997 (final)[1] and 2010 (revised)[1, 2]*

| | *Comprehensive schools[3, 4]* | | *Independent mainstream schools[4]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *5+ A*-C grades* | *5+ A*-C inc. English and mathematics* | *5+ A*-C grades* | *5+ A*-C inc. English and mathematics* |
| 1997[5] | 41.8 | 31.3 | 82.5 | 77.9 |
| 2010[6] | 76.7 | 54.7 | 87.1 | 48.0 |

[1] Including attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.

[2] iGCSEs, accredited as at January 2011, have been counted in 2010 figures as GCSE equivalents and also as English and maths GCSEs.

[3] Including City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[4] School type as recorded in the Secondary School Performance Tables.

[5] Figures for 1997 are based on pupils on roll aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year.

[6] Figures for 2010 are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

*Source:*

Secondary School Performance Tables.

Only accredited iGCSEs are included in these measures for 2010. A large number of pupils in independent schools took unaccredited iGCSEs in mathematics in 2010.

The 2010 figures given here were published in the Statistical First Release "GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2009/10 (Revised)" at the following link

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000985/index.shtml

The equivalent information for 2011 was published on 20 October 2011 in the Statistical First Release "GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2010/11 (Provisional)". This information can be found in tables 5 and 6 of this publication which is available at the following link

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001034/index.shtml

### Pupil Premium: Pendle

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students have benefited from pupil premium funding in Pendle constituency since April 2011. [84731]

**Sarah Teather:** Pupil premium funding is provided in respect of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, children in care who have been continuously looked after for at least six months and children whose parents are serving in the armed forces. In the Pendle constituency in January 2011 there were 2,241 pupils known to be eligible for FSM and 13 service children. The total number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium in the Pendle constituency may be higher, but it is not possible to identify the number of pupils in each parliamentary constituency recorded as being in care or recorded in the alternative provision census as, in both cases, the returns are provided at local authority level rather than at establishment level.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Charities: VAT

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will extend eligibility for the VAT refund scheme to charities who deliver public services under a contract with a public sector organisation. [88783]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Treasury.

There are no plans to provide VAT refunds to charities delivering public services under a contract with a public sector organisation.

In many cases, EU VAT rules mean that it would not be necessary or possible to provide a refund scheme to any contracted provider of public services. The provision of any services under a contract, by a charity or a business, will normally be regarded as a business activity and thus within the scope of VAT. Therefore, if the services provided are taxable (in other words, they are not specifically exempted from VAT) the provider will be able to recover their VAT costs through the normal VAT system.

However, if the services provided are VAT exempt, any form of VAT refund is prohibited under EU VAT law. Where a provider does incur irrecoverable VAT in the provision of public services, these costs should be taken into account by the contracting public sector organisation when agreeing funding.

### CyberCrime Prevention

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* cyber and *(b)* physical steps he is taking to protect UK businesses and individual internet users from cyber infrastructure attacks. [88405]

**Mr Maude:** The Government takes the threat of cyber attacks very seriously which is why we have allocated additional funding of £650 million over four years to respond effectively to threats from cyberspace through the National Cyber Security programme.

The Government have a wide ranging set of measures in place to protect businesses and individuals from cyber attacks and our new national Cyber Security-Strategy published in November:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cyber-security-strategy

sets out our plans for how we will improve the UK's cyber security and build confidence by creating a more secure and resilient cyberspace.

The Government also supports Get Safe Online, a joint government/industry initiative to raise awareness of internet security and educate and empower people and firms to protect themselves online.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88961]

**Mr Maude:** In 2010 and 2011, the Cabinet Office did not bring into force any regulations, by any means, originating from proposals by the European Commission.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions the ministerial group on the Big Society has met; what subjects were on its agenda at each meeting; and on what dates these meetings took place. [87537]

**Mr Hurd:** The informal ministerial group on Big Society and Localism has met three times on the following dates, considering the following agenda items:

*21 July 2010:*

The Big Society vision

Role of the adviser on Big Society

The compact

*28 October 2010:*

Locally integrated services

Spending review and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations

Big Society vanguard areas

*16 March 2011:*

Community budgets and locally integrated services

Community capability

Strategic communications

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88603]

**Gregory Barker:** Departments will work closely with Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and with Cooperatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

Specifically, DECC is working to support local communities to develop co-op structures for ownership of renewable energy infrastructure locally through our "Community Energy On-Line" website.

We have also just launched a programme for community energy called LEAF (Local Energy Assessment Fund) which is open to cooperatives and encourages communities to look at renewable energy options.

The Mutuals Taskforce has recently indicated it will play a co-ordinating role for Departments to support the International Year of Co-operatives, with Cooperatives UK leading the Taskforce's work in this area.

## Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he plans that his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89216]

**Gregory Barker:** Between April 2010 to March 2011 DECC had 14 staff undertaking an apprenticeship programme.

Between April and December 2011 DECC had one new apprenticeship start (with the above continuing).

All future apprenticeships will be based on suitable vacancies arising within the Department.

## Energy Efficiency Deployment Office: Public Appointments

**Dr Whitehead:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to appoint a *(a)* chair and *(b)* director to administer the Energy Efficiency Deployment Office. [88522]

**Gregory Barker:** As soon as possible.

## Energy: Prices

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on energy bills of *(a)* the Green Deal, *(b)* feed-in tariffs, *(c)* Contract for Difference and *(d)* other subsidies offered by his Department. [88877]

**Charles Hendry:** On 23 November 2011, alongside the annual energy statement, DECC published an assessment of the impact of climate change and energy polices on energy prices and bills for an average household, medium-sized business user and large energy intensive user in 2011, 2020 and 2030, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/aes/impacts/impacts.aspx

The headline results are presented in table 1. A breakdown of the separate gas and electricity bill impacts by individual policies is presented in the set of tables in annex F (from page 67) of the aforementioned document.

*Table 1: Estimated impact of energy and climate change policies on average energy (gas plus electricity) bills compared with bills in the absence of policies*

| *Real 2010 prices* | *2011* | *2020* | *2030* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Household* | | | |
| Bill without policies | £1,229 | £1,379 | £1,474 |
| Bill with policies | £1,249 | £1,285 | £1,427 |
| Impact of policies | £19 (2%) | -£94 (-7%) | -£46 (-3%) |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| Green Deal and ECO[1, 2] | n/a | £42 | -£20 |
| Small-scale feed-in tariffs | £1 | £6 | £6 |
| EMR (CfDs and capacity payments) | n/a | £41 | £50 |
| Other policies | £18 | -£183 | -£82 |
| *Medium-sized business user* | | | |
| Bill without policies | £1,550,000 | £1,738,000 | £1,829,000 |
| Bill with policies | £1,821,000 | £2,073,000 | £2,337,000 |
| Impact of policies | £271,000 (18%) | £335,000 (19%) | £508,000 (28%) |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| Green Deal[2] | n/a | -£16,000 | -£16,000 |
| Small-scale feed-in tariffs | £3,000 | £15,000 | £14,000 |
| EMR (CfDs and capacity payments) | n/a | £96,000 | £117,000 |
| Other policies | £268,000 | £240,000 | £394,000 |
| *Large energy intensive industrial user* | | | |
| Bill without policies | £8.2 to £15.6 million | £9.3 to £17.4 million | £9.7 to £18.0 million |
| Bill with policies | £8.4 to £17.5 million | £9.4 to £20.9 million | £10.8 to £24.1 million |
| Impact of policies | £0.3 to £1.9 million (3% to 12%) | £0.2 to £3.5 million (2% to 20%) | £1.1 to £6.1 million (11% to 34%) |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| Green Deal[2] | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Small-scale feed-in tariffs | £0 to £30,000 | £0 to £138,000 | £0 to £124,000 |

*Table 1: Estimated impact of energy and climate change policies on average energy (gas plus electricity) bills compared with bills in the absence of policies*

| *Real 2010 prices* | *2011* | *2020* | *2030* |
|---|---|---|---|
| EMR (CfDs and capacity payments) | n/a | £0 to £870,000 | £0 to £1.1 million |
| Other policies | £0.3 to £1.9 million | £0.2 to £2.5 million | £1.1 to £4.9 million |

[1] Due to the overlap between the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) in the household sector, the impact of each of the two policies individually cannot be isolated.

[2] Estimates of the Green Deal impact are net of the average annual loan repayment.

*Note:*

Figures may not add due to rounding.

*Source:*

DECC 2012.

### Horizon Nuclear Power

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications for *(a)* security of supply and *(b)* competition in the energy marketplace of the sale of equity shares by the Horizon Nuclear Power joint venture. [88181]

**Charles Hendry:** Horizon Nuclear Power remains a 50:50 joint venture between E.ON UK and RWE npower.

Horizon and its shareholders have been clear that they remain committed to the UK, and are continuing to develop their plans for around 6 GW of new nuclear capacity, starting with around 3 GW on their lead-site at Wylfa, Anglesey.

It is the Government's policy to make the UK energy sector more attractive to new investors and any issues of market competition would be dealt with by the competition authorities.

### Power Failures

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households have power supply voltage optimisation devices. [88891]

**Gregory Barker:** We do not have records for how many households have voltage optimisation devices. These devices are eligible measures for suppliers to promote in meeting their household Carbon Emissions Reduction Target to December 2012, though no schemes have been delivered as yet.

### Solar Power

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 216W, on solar power, whether his Department has any plans to *(a)* undertake or *(b)* commission research on the effects of installing solar PV on household energy use. [89063]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC is currently considering what further evidence may be needed in relation to the effects of installing microgeneration technologies on household energy use.

### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the average number of feed-in tariff solar PV installations that were completed between *(a)* April 2010 and October 2011 and *(b)* 31 October and 12 December 2011. [89064]

**Gregory Barker:** The latest monthly published statistics show that between April 2010 and October 2011, the number of solar PV installations (of sub 50 kW capacity) on the Microgeneration Certificate Scheme database (MCS) was 127,474. Of these, 70% (89,297) have been confirmed on Ofgem's Central FiT Register (CFR).

In addition, there were 3,534 solar PV confirmed installations on the CFR but not registered on the MCS database at the end of December 2011. Of these, 316 installations were confirmed after 31 October 2011. These installations are not registered on the MCS database because the installation capacity is greater than 50 kW, so are additional to the MCS numbers.

The number of solar PV installations registered on the MCS database between 31 October 2011 and 12 December 2011 was 102,183.

### Warm Front Scheme

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 798W, on Warm Front Scheme: St Helens, for how many parliamentary constituencies his Department holds data on the number of households that have received assistance under the Warm Front Scheme in each of the last five years. [89204]

**Gregory Barker:** Carillion Energy Services hold, on DECC's behalf, data on the number of households that have received Warm Front assistance in each parliamentary constituency.

### Wind Power

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to visit the proposed site of the Brechfa Forest West wind farm. [89093]

**Charles Hendry:** I have no current plans to visit the proposed site for this wind farm. This application is currently under examination by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). I will be making a decision on this application once the IPC has made its recommendation and therefore it would not be appropriate for me to comment further on this application.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Arms Trade

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* bi-lateral and *(b)* multi-lateral meetings (i) he and (ii) his officials have had with their international counterparts to discuss the agreement of a robust arms trade treaty in preparation for the final Preparatory Committee in February 2012. [88047]

**Mr Prisk:** Officials from this Department have regularly formed part of cross-Whitehall teams in support of Foreign and Commonwealth Office outreach with a range of international counterparts on the arms trade treaty (ATT). These discussions have covered a broad range of issues and have been used to gain support for HMG policy objectives on the ATT and to gain an understanding of the concerns of other countries.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution his Department is making to developing policy on the inclusion of import, export, re-export, transit, transhipment, brokering activities and the gifting, loan or lease of arms within the terms of the arms trade treaty. [88055]

**Mr Prisk:** Officials from this Department have been, and continue to be, actively engaged in supporting the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on all aspects of arms trade treaty policy development and strategy that are within the responsibilities of this Department.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of his Department's officials at each grade are working on the arms trade treaty negotiations; whether there has been any change in the personnel leading on this matter; and whether he expects any further changes to be made before July 2012. [88059]

**Mr Prisk:** A number of the senior staff of the Export Control Organisation in this Department (SCS Band 1, Grade 7) spend a proportion of their time contributing to the UK team negotiating the arms trade treaty. I expect that the total level of resource dedicated to this activity will increase between now and July 2012.

### Business Support

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the steps the banks that signed up to the Merlin Agreement have taken to encourage increased demand for finance from small and medium-sized enterprises. [87819]

**Mr Prisk:** It is absolutely vital that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have the confidence to seek the finance they need to thrive and grow. Through the British Bankers' Association, the Merlin banks have set up the Better Business Finance Taskforce, which in October 2010 made a number of commitments to repair their relationships with small business customers and encourage demand, including a regional outreach programme.

The Merlin banks have taken a range of steps to increase take-up of finance by small and medium-sized businesses, for example:

Lloyds TSB made new commitments for 2012 in their SME Charter in November 2011;

Barclays organised free lending clinics for SMEs throughout October and November 2011;

RBS launched a fixed rate product with no fees for SME customers;

HSBC have launched products with discounted interest rates for businesses which export or employ; and

Santander have announced a "breakthrough" programme with a £200 million fund aimed at high growth potential firms.

The Government are also working with the banks and other stakeholders to increase SMEs confidence and capability in accessing finance through a Finance Fitness campaign, which will be putting more and better advice and resources in the hands of small businesses next year.

We have also announced the launch of a National Loan Guarantee Scheme which will aim to support £20 billion worth of lending to small businesses over the next two years.

### Business: Loans

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the steps taken by the banks that signed up to the Merlin Agreement to initiate pre re-financing dialogues with customers 12 months before term loans end. [87820]

**Mr Prisk:** The Merlin banks committed to initiating a pre-refinancing dialogue 12 months' ahead of any term loan coming to an end as part of the British Bankers' Association Taskforce in October 2010. These dialogues would include a timely review of business and refinancing needs and an assessment of what needs to be in place ahead of loan expiry to maximise the prospect of successful refinancing.

BIS Ministers are in regular discussion with the banks on this and the other commitments of the British Bankers' Association Taskforce. General banking issues are regularly discussed in the quarterly Small Business Economic Forum, which I chair, and features representatives from a wide range of business groups and the Merlin banks.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the steps taken by the banks that signed up to the Merlin Agreement to give more weight to the expectations, capacity and willingness to lend to small and medium-sized enterprises in the performance metrics of the chief executives and business area leaders. [87821]

**Mr Prisk:** The main representations received on the Merlin Agreement concern the need for banks to provide finance on appropriate terms to the viable businesses that need it. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has made clear his view that the remuneration of the Merlin banks' chief executives and relevant senior managers should reflect the bank's performance in lending to small and medium enterprises, and the Merlin banks have publicly committed to this.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the progress of delivery using the 17 commitments made by the British Bankers' Association Business Finance Taskforce based on the results of the continuous monitoring his Department has committed to undertake; and if he will make a statement. [87945]

**Mr Prisk:** As the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in the 29 November 2011 Autumn Statement, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, the Government welcome the progress the banks have made in delivering their commitments, as well as their intention to continue to take these initiatives forward in future. In particular, the Government welcome the British Bankers' Association's intention to work with community development finance institutions (CDFIs) to put in place a system to refer unsuccessful loan applicants to CDFIs.

### Business: Regulation

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the press release issued by the Regulatory Policy Committee on 25 July 2011, whether the net cost figures published in the Second Statement of New Regulation were independently assessed. [87824]

**Mr Prisk:** I can confirm that the net cost figures in the Second Statement of New Regulation were independently assessed by the Regulatory Policy Committee. Any exceptions are highlighted in the statement published by the relevant Department.

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of progress by his Department in implementing the objective in the coalition agreement to reduce the burden of administration by introducing a 'One-in, One-out' rule for regulation. [87881]

**Mr Prisk:** The second Statement of New Regulation, published in September 2011, reports on the first year of application of the 'One-in, One-out' rule to new domestic regulation:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/better-regulation-framework/one-in-one-out/statement

Copies of the statement have been deposited in both Libraries of the House,

The statement shows that the Government's 'One-in, One-out' rule has resulted in an overall reduction in the net cost to business and civil society organisations. Information on costs is provided both by Department and as a total for Government.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Second Statement of New Regulation which departments did not *(a)* pass any deregulatory measures and *(b)* achieve a net fall in the cost to businesses in 2011. [87825]

**Mr Prisk:** The second Statement of New Regulation:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/better-regulation-framework/one-in-one-out/statement

published in September 2011, provides a forecast of deregulatory measures (or 'OUTs') for 2011. The statement shows the volume (i.e. number of measures) and net annual regulatory cost to business for each department.

Copies of the statement have been deposited in both Libraries of the House.

An update on the final position will be provided in the new statement.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on which date a final impact assessment was *(a)* received and *(b)* validated by the Regulatory Policy Committee for each regulatory change announced in the Second Statement of New Regulation. [87826]

**Mr Prisk:** The following table shows the regulatory changes announced in the Second Statement of New Regulation and, for each measure, the dates the final impact assessment was received and the Regulatory Policy Committee's Opinion was issued.

| *IA No.* | *Title* | *Date final IA received* | *Date opinion issued* |
|---|---|---|---|
| BIS0172 | The Insolvency (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 25 March 2011 | 9 May 2011 |
| BIS0083 | Weights and Measures (Specified Quantities) (Unwrapped Bread and Intoxicating Liquor) Order 2011 | 5 January 2011 | 1 February 2011 |
| BIS0283 | Public Policy Exclusion Order (Complex Weapons) (Revocation) 2011 | 27 June 2011 | 5 July 2011 |
| BIS0027 | Special Administration Regime of the Postal Services Act 2011 | 5 August 2011 | 19 August 2011 |
| BIS0135 | The Patents County Court (Financial Limits) (No.2) Order 2011 | 10 January 2011 | 1 February 2011 |
| BIS0303 | The Overseas Companies (Execution of Documents and Registration of Charges) Regulations 2011 | 18 May 2011 | 8 June 2011 |
| BIS0146, BIS0093, BIS0288 | The Scheme for Construction Contracts (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2011, The Construction Contracts (England) Exclusion Order 2011, The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (Commencement No.2)(England) Order 2011 | 16 May 2011 | 10 June 2011 |
| BIS0073 | Amendment to the Patents Act to provide for Online Patent File Inspection Order 2011 | 21 June 2011 | 5 July 2011 |
| BIS0181 | Companies Act 2006 (Annual Returns) Regulations 2011 | 12 March2011 | 12 April 2011 |
| BIS0292 | The Companies (Disclosure of Auditor Remuneration and Liability Limitation Agreements) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 26 July 2011 | 1 August 2011 |
| DCLG0032 | The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 | 4 May 2011 | 16 May 2011 |
| DCLG5004 | The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2011 | 3 March 2011 | 13 April 2011 |
| DCLG5001 | The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (Amendment) (England) Order 2011 | 10 March 2011 | 12 April 2011 |

| *IA No.* | *Title* | *Date final IA received* | *Date opinion issued* |
|---|---|---|---|
| DCLG0024 | The Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development, Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 | 29 July 2011 | 8 August 2011 |
| DCLG0036 | Building (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 15 April 2011 | 5 May 2011 |
| CO1006,7,8 | The Charities Act 2006 (Changes in Exempt Charities) Order 2011 | 26 July 2011 | 4 August 2011 |
| DCMS10 | The Media Ownership (Radio and Cross media) order 2010 | 22 October 2010 | 9 November 2010 |
| DCMS007 | Gambling Act 2005: Category B3 Gaming Machine | 9 May 2011 | 17 May 2011 |
| DECC0030 | EU Third package - licence modification appeals | 22 June 2011 | 13 July 2011 |
| DECC0056 | Extending Compulsory Purchase Powers to change of use of pipelines to C02 transport | 4 March2011 | 22 March2011 |
| DECC0019 | Third Party access to upstream petroleum infrastructure | 5 July 2011 | 5 August 2011 |
| DECC0011 | Repeal of 18 Exemption Orders for low risk use of radioactive substances | 1 April 2011 | 19 April 2011 |
| DECC0048 | Raising the threshold for energy supplier participation in social and environmental programmes | 28 March 2011 | 18 April 2011 |
| DECC0020 | Introduction of a Special Administration Regime | 24 June 2011 | 2 August 2011 |
| DEFRA1145 | Flood and Water Management Act (2010) Implementation of sections 38 and 39 Incidental Flooding. | 28 July 2011 | 10 August 2011 |
| DEFRA1261 | Flood and Water Management Act (2010) Implementation of Section 7 (6) on cooperation and sharing information. | 24 February 2011 | 21 March 2011 |
| DEFRA1147 | The Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011. | 7 March 2011 | 21 March 2011 |
| DEFRA1082 | Amendments to Schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 | 8 August 2011 | 17 August 2011 |
| DEFRA1199 | Flood and Water Management Act (2010) Implementation of Section 27(2) guidance on sustainable development duty. | 11 May 2011 | 3 June 2011 |
| DEFRA1133 | Simplification of the contaminated land regime. | 13 September 2011 | 20 September 2011 |
| DEFRA1055 | Amendment of Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007 | 14 July 2011 | 3 August 2011 |
| DEFRA1071 | The Water Supply (Amendment to the Threshold Requirement) Regulations 2011 | 17 June 2011 | 28 June 2011 |
| DEFRA1306 | The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2011. | n/a | [1]— |
| DEFRA0185 | The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations 2011 | 10 May 2011 | 20 May 2011 |
| DEFRA0168 | Cattle Identification (Amendment) Regulation. | n/a | [1]— |
| DfT00084 | The Equality Act 2010 - Application of Part 5 to Seafarers | 15 March 2011 | 28 March 2011 |
| DfT00004 | M25 Motorway Junctions 2 to 3 (Variable Speed Limits) Regulations 2011 | 13 July 2011 | 12 August 2011 |
| DfT00046 | The Vehicle Drivers (Certificates of Professional Competence) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 13 July 2011 | 2 August 2011 |
| DfT00107 | Revocations of the explosive provision in Classification and Labelling of Explosive Regulations 1983 | 8 June 2011 | 21 June 2011 |
| DH0662 | Prohibition on the sale of tobacco from vending machines | 10 August 2011 | 20 September 2011 |
| DH3007 | To include the medical exposure of self-referred asymptomatic individuals within the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2000 (IRMER) | 7 March 2011 | 30 March 2011 |
| DH5059 | Recognition of pharmacist qualifications awarded in the European Economic Area and Switzerland: removing the "Three-year rule" from new pharmacies | 9 May 2011 | 27 May 2011 |
| DWP0011 | Occupational Pensions Schemes (Employer Debt and Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2011 | 5 September 2011 | 15 September 2011 |
| FOOD0092 | Earned Recognition in the Dairy Sector (England and Wales) | 10 August 2011 | 23 August 2011 |
| HMT1102C | The Financial Services and Markets Act (FSMA) 2000 (Carrying on Regulated Activities by Way of Business)(Amendment) Order-regulation of sale and rent back agreements | 11 July 2011 | 20 July 2011 |
| HMT0021 | Introducing a protected cell regime for UK open ended investment companies | 2 August 2011 | 25 August 2011 |
| HMT1137 | Early implementation measures of Amending Directive 2003/71/EC on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading | 17 June 2011 | 5 July 2011 |
| HMT1106 | Legislative Reform Order on mutuals | 10 February 2011 | 4 March 2011 |
| HMT1102D | The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Exemption)(Amendment) Order- Northern Ireland housing associations | 11 July 2011 | 20 July 2011 |
| N/A | Civil Partnerships on Religious Premises | 9 August 2011 | 15 August 2011 |
| N/A | Specification for Firearms | n/a | [2]— |
| MoJ 0008 | Implementation of the Legal Services Act 2007 | 23 July 2011 | 3 August 2011 |

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[1] These measures were included in SNR2 but were departmental estimates based on consultation stage impact assessment. Final figure subject to approval by Regulatory Policy Committee in due course, on basis of final stage impact assessments.

[2] Due to the negligible cost of this measure, an impact assessment was not been deemed necessary. The measure was included in Home Office SNR2 for consistency with the previous Statement of New Regulation.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the moratorium on new domestic regulation for micro-businesses and start-ups was applied to all *(a)* regulatory measures and *(b)* deregulatory measures announced in the Second Statement of New Regulation. [87827]

**Mr Prisk:** The guidance on the micro-business moratorium,

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/better-regulation/docs/g/11-1198-guidance-moratorium-on-new-domestic-regulation.pdf

was applied to each measure in the Statement of New Regulation

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/better-regulation/docs/o/11-p96b-one-in-one-out-second-statement-new-regulation.pdf

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to conduct a review of the moratorium on new domestic regulation for micro-businesses and start-ups in order to ensure that the moratorium is being applied correctly in accordance with the relevant guidance; and if so when he plans to publish such a review. [87828]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government have no plans to conduct a review of the moratorium on new domestic regulation for micro-businesses and start-ups at the present time.

### Cluster Munitions

**Mr Kennedy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he last met representatives of *(a)* banks and *(b)* other financial institutions to discuss direct or indirect investment in the manufacture of cluster bombs; and if he will make a statement. [87938]

**Mr Prisk:** The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has had no discussions with representative of banks or other financial institutions about direct or indirect investment in the manufacture of cluster bombs.

### Council for Science and Technology

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Council for Science and Technology (CST) *(a)* received in 2010-11 and *(b)* will receive in 2011-12; what estimate he has made of the number of full-time equivalent staff working for the CST in each year; and if he will make a statement. [88023]

**Mr Willetts:** £47,000 was spent on the activities of the Council for Science and Technology (CST) in 2010-11. The budget for 2011-12 is £50,000. No staff work directly for the CST which is an advisory non-departmental public body. The staff in the CST Secretariat are employed by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Three full-time equivalent staff worked in the CST Secretariat in both 2010-11 and 2011-12.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88572]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills considers equality issues in exercising its functions, to comply with equality legislation and to ensure it understands how its activities will affect different people. It provides information about this consideration in various ways. In the specified period, this information was sometimes published in the form of an equality impact assessment, although there has never been a legal requirement to produce such a document.

We have published seven such documents during the period. These are available on the Department's website.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87344]

**Mr Davey:** The following table shows number of staff employed by BIS on 11 May 2010 and 8 December 2011. To note these figures are based on staff on payroll.

| *Date* | *Headcount total Including UKTI* | *Headcount total excluding UKTI* |
|---|---|---|
| 11 May 2010 | 3,607 | 3,054 |
| 8 December 2011 | 2,996 | 2,448 |

### Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [88014]

**Mr Davey:** In each month since September 2011, the Department has paid (on a cash basis rather than a resource accounting basis) the following amounts to recruitment agencies:

| *2011* | *£* |
|---|---|
| September | 253,555 |
| October | 242,178 |
| November | 420,292 |

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [88012]

**Mr Davey:** The Department paid in total £4,413,545.51 in respect of redundancy costs between September and November 2011. The monthly costs are shown in the following table.

| 2011 | £ |
|---|---|
| September | 1,630,077.45 |
| October | 867,911.45 |
| November | 1,915,556.61 |

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many temporary staff were recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [88013]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills recruited seven temporary staff in the period between September and November 2011.

### Foreign Investment in UK

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to (1) improve the UK's ranking in the World Bank's 2012 Doing Business Report; and what steps his Department has taken to address the findings of previous Doing Business reports; [88763]

(2) *(a)* strengthen courts, the insolvency regime and other legal institutions and *(b)* increase the legal protection of investors and property rights in order to make it easier to do business in the UK; and what steps his Department plans to take on such matters; [88764]

(3) facilitate access for businesses to fee schedules, documentation requirements, information relating to commercial cases and insolvency proceedings and other such regulatory information; [88765]

(4) *(a)* strengthen governance, *(b)* encourage business development and *(c)* improve operations to enhance the overall investment climate in the UK. [88767]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government are committed to creating the right conditions for businesses to succeed, removing barriers that are preventing them from performing to their full potential. It is welcome that the World Bank puts the UK in the top 10 places to do business in the world.

The Government's growth review is bringing an ambitious and relentless focus, across the lifetime of the Parliament, to the role Government can play to enable the right conditions for businesses to thrive and achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth. The plan for growth and the autumn statement set out a wide-ranging package of more than 280 measures to build a stronger and more balanced economy. The growth review's packages of more than 280 measures include, among others, specific activity on corporate governance, regulation, access to finance, competition and trade and investment. These measures are currently being implemented—by the autumn statement significant milestones had been reached on more than 90% of the actions announced at the Budget.

More specifically:

In its report, the World Bank specifically highlights our wide-ranging work on deregulation as a good example to follow (particularly the One In, One Out programme controlling the flow of new regulations and the Red Tape Challenge thematically reviewing the stock of existing regulations sector by sector).

It is now possible to form a UK company online with no reduction in creditor or investor protection.

Over 95% of companies now file at least one document electronically and over 92% of companies file their accounts on time. The public register is updated with this information within 24 hours. This information is then available via the web in real time.

UK company law has been substantially overhauled. The Corporate Governance Code for listed companies and Stewardship Code for investors are developed and maintained by the Financial Reporting Council.

The UK has a robust independent court system. Key judgments are widely reported and available on the internet.

The insolvency regime is subject to ongoing monitoring and review. We have recently consulted on plans to increase transparency in 'pre-pack' administrations, the regulation of Insolvency Practitioners and the application process for bankruptcy and winding-up of companies. More generally the insolvency regime has been recently tested in the deepest recession for generations and most commentators have agreed that it did its job very effectively in extremely difficult circumstances.

We will shortly be bringing forward for parliamentary approval proposals to make it easier for companies to use their assets to raise finance.

We are ensuring that businesses can access the finance they need to grow their business through measures such as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and the new National Loan Guarantee Scheme, which will provide up to £200 billion of guarantees for bank funding over the next two years allowing banks to offer lower cost lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs.) We have also transformed the way we enable people to receive the advice and information they need to grow their business; including a new Growth and Improvement Service on

www.businesslink.gov.uk

and a mentoring portal

www.mentorsme.co.uk

bringing together existing networks of mentors in the voluntary and private sectors. We will also shortly be launching a new Business Coaching for Growth service, providing high quality business coaching support for SMEs with high growth potential.

### Foresight

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from his Department Foresight *(a)* received in 2010-11 and *(b)* will receive in 2011-12; what estimate he has made of the number of full-time equivalent staff working for Foresight in each year; and if he will make a statement. [88025]

**Mr Willetts:** Foresight is part of the Government Office for Science, which is a semi-autonomous unit housed within BIS and funded from the BIS vote. The Foresight Programme helps Government make decisions today which are robust to future uncertainties. The estimated number of staff working for Foresight in 2010/11 was 31 and for 2011/12, it is 28. The total funding for staff and to fund the programme of activity in 2010/11 was £3.66 million, and is expected to be £3.74 million in 2011/12.

### Green Investment Bank

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Green Investment Bank to receive state aid clearance. [87904]

**Mr Prisk:** It is difficult to be precise about the timetable for the European Commission to reach a decision on the UK state aid notification relating to the Green Investment Bank. If the Commission opens a full investigation, a decision could take up to 18 months. We are, however, optimistic about the prospects for a relatively early decision and for planning purposes are preparing on the basis that this could be obtained during 2012.

### Hearing Impairment

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to improve access to its programmes and services for people with hearing impairment. [86933]

**Mr Davey:** The Department is not itself undertaking specific activity to improve access to its programmes and services for people with hearing impairment. However, we fund the further education and skills, and higher education sectors to support disabled students.

We provide funding to both Disability Rights UK and the Equality Challenge Unit, independent organisations which alongside providing advice and guidance to higher education institutions and further education providers also help raise awareness about a range of equality issues in the sector.

Higher education institutions and further education colleges have duties under the Equality Act 2010 to support disabled students, including students with hearing impairment, when applying to higher and further education and when studying. The law establishes a framework of responsibility which higher education institutions and further education colleges must comply with and also promotes an anticipatory and proactive approach to supporting disabled students. Institutions are required to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students to ensure that they can fully participate in their education and enjoy the other benefits, facilities and services which are provided for students.

"Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (published November 2010) recognises the importance of access to further education and skills training for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. We have introduced a single adult skills budget from the 2011/12 academic year. This provides further education colleges and other training organisations with the flexibility to offer a range and balance of programmes and support in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of disabled students and students with learning difficulties. Funding for additional learning support is also provided to colleges and other training organisations to help support the additional needs of disadvantaged learners to enable them to participate fully in learning. The funding is intended to be flexible and support learners who have a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The Government also provide support to disabled students in higher education. We provide funding to HE institutions, through the Higher Education Funding Council for England, to help them recruit and support disabled students; £13m will be provided in academic year 2011/12.

The Government also provide direct support to disabled students through Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs). DSAs can help pay the extra costs a student may incur, because of a disability, when undertaking a course of higher education. DSAs are provided in addition to the standard student support package, are not income-assessed and do not have to be repaid.

### High Street Review

**Oliver Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Portas review, if he will meet the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to discuss the parking strategies of local authorities. [87870]

**Mr Davey:** Ministers meet regularly to discuss a range of issues. In respect of the Mary Portas review the Prime Minister has asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), to lead on responding to the report and the town centres agenda.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department plans to allocate to the Widening Participation Premium in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15. [88115]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is responsible for determining the level of funding made available through the Widening Participation Allocation. Ministers wrote to HEFCE in June 2011 outlining our initial priorities for teaching funding for 2012/13 which included the funding the Council provides to support widening participation and retention. HEFCE consulted, over the summer, on how this and our other funding priorities might best be delivered. We will confirm our priorities for teaching funding for 2012/13 in our grant letter to the Council, to be published shortly.

In June, we also asked HEFCE to consult on the operation of the teaching grant for 2013/14 and beyond. HEFCE will launch this consultation, early next year. We will confirm our priorities for teaching funding in future years, in the usual way, in the grant letter for the year in question.

**Steve Brine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to consult on any proposed changes to the widening participation premium. [88652]

**Mr Willetts:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is responsible for determining the level of funding made available through the widening participation premium. In June, we asked HEFCE to consult on the operation of the teaching grant for 2013/14 and beyond. HEFCE will launch this consultation, early next year.

We will confirm our priorities for teaching funding for 2012/13 in our grant letter to HEFCE, to be published shortly.

### Higher Education: Applications

**Michael Dugher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effects of recent trends in UCAS applications for 2012 admission on implementation of the Government's social mobility strategy. [85287]

**Mr Willetts:** UCAS have not yet published any information on the social background of applicants for 2012 entry. They have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the application cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate volumes forward.

**Michael Dugher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people applied for courses through UCAS in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011 to date by (i) region and (ii) socio-economic group. [85297]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

Figures for 2009, 2010 and 2011 are final end of cycle figures. Figures for 2012 are the latest published figures which show the position as at 19 December 2011. UCAS have not yet released any figures for 2012 showing applicants by social background.

*UK domiciled applicants to UCAS by region of domicile and social background*

| | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region of domicile* | | | | |
| East Midlands | 35,088 | 38,123 | 37,925 | 18,730 |
| Eastern | 46,222 | 50,007 | 50,392 | 25,821 |
| Greater London | 88,721 | 96,693 | 99,668 | 44,066 |
| North East | 19,891 | 21,658 | 22,030 | 10,103 |
| North West | 64,644 | 68,965 | 68,767 | 34,976 |
| Northern Ireland | 17,864 | 19,682 | 20,242 | 10,480 |
| Scotland | 40,053 | 46,347 | 46,015 | 14,617 |
| South East | 71,964 | 78,255 | 77,684 | 41,700 |
| South West | 43,710 | 46,142 | 46,069 | 22,880 |
| Wales | 24,947 | 24,908 | 24,974 | 12,701 |
| West Midlands | 48,443 | 51,171 | 50,514 | 26,027 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 42,476 | 44,848 | 45,069 | 21,579 |
| UK unspecified | 262 | 22 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 544,285 | 586,821 | 589,350 | 283,680 |
| *Social background* | | | | |
| Disadvantaged[1] | 169,183 | 185,933 | 187,427 | n/a |
| Other | 366,531 | 393,616 | 393,105 | n/a |
| Not known | 8,571 | 7,272 | 8,818 | n/a |
| Total | 544,285 | 586,821 | 589,350 | n/a |

n/a = not available

[1] Derived from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)'s POLAR2 measure:
http://www.hefce.ac.uk/widen/fund/
HEFCE uses two different groupings of areas to define disadvantage: one based on the participation rates of young (19 and under) people in HE (which is used by HEFCE when looking at young full-time entrants); and one based on the proportion of adults who hold HE qualifications (which is used by HEFCE when looking at part-time and mature full-time entrants). Because this table includes applicants of all ages, the HE qualified adults measure has been used. For the purposes of their funding allocations HEFCE treat entrants from the most disadvantaged 40% of neighbourhoods as 'disadvantaged', using quintiles 1 and 2 of the POLAR2 measure.

### Higher Education: Standards

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure and maintain the quality of institutions with degree-awarding powers under his proposals to increase flexibility in the higher education sector. [86547]

**Mr Willetts:** As part of the proposals set out in the Higher Education White Paper published in June and the subsequent technical consultation, all institutions with English degree awarding powers will be required, as now, to satisfy a quality threshold administered by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. This assures and will continue to assure the quality of an English degree.

### Insolvency

**Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* businesses and *(b)* retailers (i) were liquidated and (ii) went into administration in each month in each of the last five years. [87935]

**Mr Davey:** Official statistics on corporate insolvencies by industry sector are not compiled monthly. The latest headline quarterly statistics, including an industry breakdown for liquidations and administrations may be found here:

http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/201111/index.htm#tables

While the total figures in these tables cover the last 10 years, the industry breakdowns only run from Q3 2007; the available industry breakdowns up to Q3 2006 (which were on a different basis) are available here:

http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/historicdata/HDmenu.htm

### Japan Tobacco International

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87609]

**Mr Davey:** Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010-30 June 2011 can be accessed on departmental websites. Information for 1 July onwards will be published in due course.

### Members: Correspondence

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Minister for Business and Enterprise plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale of 20 September and 15 November 2011, on behalf of Mr Stevan Cross. [88433]

**Mr Davey:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has no record of the letter of 20 September 2011, however the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills responded to the letter of 15 November 2011 on 21 December 2011.

### Met Office: Pay

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been paid in bonuses to staff employed at the Met Office in each of the last five years. [87908]

**Mr Davey:** In line with civil service reward principles, Met Office staff are eligible to receive performance related pay based on achievements against specific targets agreed and monitored by the Met Office Board, which are linked to the success of the Met Office at either individual, team or organisational level. Payments are non-consolidated and represent part of Met Office staff remuneration which is at risk and needs to be re-earned each year.

The following table details the amount paid in performance related pay to staff employed at the Met Office in each of the last five years.

| | *Total paid in non-consolidated, performance related awards (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 3,368 |
| 2009-10 | 2,593 |
| 2008-09 | 2,720 |
| 2007-08 | 2,734 |
| 2006-07 | 2,491 |

The average award paid to staff in 2010-11 was £1,809.

### Nuclear Power Stations

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* encourage increased competition in the nuclear industry supply chain and *(b)* ensure that British firms are well-placed to win work in the awarding of contracts to build new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [88656]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government believes that there is considerable potential for the UK civil nuclear industry from the domestic and global market and is working with companies to enable the right environment for these opportunities to be realised. At the heart of the Government's strategy is the development of a healthy and vibrant supply chain in the UK able to compete and win business in a highly competitive global environment.

The Government provides support through a number of routes, including:

The Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (Nuclear-AMRC) which, with the National Nuclear Laboratory, helps manufacturers get to market, develop their capability and competitiveness and thereby enable a globally competitive advantage to be gained.

A new Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative, announced in December 2011 with flexible support to improve the global competitiveness of existing supply chains and encourage development of new suppliers in the UK. This will be a competitive fund and the nuclear industry can apply for support through this initiative.

Support for the Nuclear Industry Association's supply chain initiative, SC@Nuclear, in order to assist the provision of market information to firms to help them make investment decisions.

Establishment of the Nuclear Energy Skills Alliance which brings together the relevant skills academies, sector skills councils, industrial training boards and others to ensure the right delivery of skills provision overall.

### Nuclear Power: Skilled Workers

**Mr Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support small and medium-sized enterprises that wish to invest in the nuclear power supply chain to acquire the necessary skills and equipment; and if he will make a statement. [87866]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government believe that there is considerable potential for the UK civil nuclear industry from the domestic and global market and is working with them to enable the right environment for these opportunities to be realised.

At the heart of the Government's support is the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (Nuclear-AMRC) which, with the National Nuclear Laboratory and the National Skills Academy for Nuclear, helps manufacturers get to market, develop their capability and competitiveness and thereby enable

British companies to gain a globally competitive advantage. In addition the new Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative announced in December 2011 will provide flexible support to improve the global competitiveness of existing supply chains and encourage the development of new suppliers, in the UK. This will be a competitive fund and the nuclear industry can apply for support through this initiative. This initiative is supported by additional funding routes that businesses can use to apply for specific investments such as the Regional Growth Fund.

The Government also support the Nuclear Industry Association's supply chain initiative, SC@ Nuclear, in order to assist the provision of market information to firms to help them make investment decisions, and UKTI in partnership with the Nuclear Industry Association is working with industry to help promotion of UK goods and services.

Near-market Research and Development projects are supported through the Technology Strategy Board and the Research Councils provide support for longer-term nuclear research.

Delivery of skills for the industry is coordinated through the Nuclear Energy Skills Alliance (NESA) and, for manufacturers, the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSA-Nuclear) has been expanded to incorporate the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering, and Manufacturing technologies (SEMTA) and the Nuclear-AMRC. NSA-Nuclear takes the overall lead in working with industry to help them acquire the skills they need to maintain and grow their operations.

## Public Houses

**Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has visited any *(a)* pubs and *(b)* breweries in an official capacity as a guest of (i) the British Beer and Pub Association and (ii) any other group acting on behalf of the licensed trade, pub companies or brewing industry since May 2010. [88193]

**Mr Davey:** I have not visited any pubs or brewers in an official capacity as a guest of either the British Beer and Pub Association or any other group acting on behalf of the licensed trade, pub companies or brewing industry since May 2010.

## Retail Trade

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to encourage large retailers to support and mentor local businesses and independent retailers. [88035]

**Mr Prisk:** Businesses tell us that they prefer to receive advice and support from other experienced business people. That is why we are working alongside the private sector to strengthen and expand the mentoring network and stimulate the demand for mentoring in all sectors.

In July, we joined forces with the British Bankers Association (BBA) to launch the new mentoring portal, mentorsme.co.uk, which makes it easier for businesses to find the right mentoring organisation for their needs. Then in November, we launched "Get Mentoring", which will see 15,000 new volunteer business mentors from the small, medium and micro business community, recruited and trained via the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI) by September 2012.

Our evidence tells us that one of the top sources of information and advice for small business owners is their customers and suppliers. Skillsmart Retail (the sector skills council) have been developing a small and medium-sized enterprise mentoring scheme which is being rolled out across the National Skills Academy for retail's network of skills shops. Also, the Association of Conveience Stores have set up a mentoring scheme aimed at independent convenience retailers.

We are working with corporate business to explore how we can mobilise the enthusiasm and expertise of leaders and experienced senior staff in corporate organisations in order to support local business through corporate mentoring programmes.

I strongly believe that this process should be demand-led and led by business. Ultimately it is for the small firm to decide what sort of expertise will benefit them most.

Large retailers supporting and mentoring local businesses and independent retailers was one of Mary Portas' recommendations in her Government commissioned "Review of the High Street" which was published on 13 December 2011. Government Departments are working closely together to consider the recommendations made by Mary Portas and will respond in detail in the spring on how we can take forward measures to support our local high streets.

## Royal Bank of Scotland

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Financial Service Authority on whether RBS was in compliance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 between 2001 and 2008; and if he will make a statement. [88446]

**Mr Davey:** BIS officials are considering the Financial Service Authority's report into the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and taking advice on what, if any, enforcement action or further investigation is appropriate.

## Royal Mail: Pay

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with the Royal Mail on its chair's remuneration, bonuses, benefits and pension payments; and if he will make a statement. [88451]

**Mr Davey:** The remuneration of the Royal Mail chair was set at the time of his appointment in March 2009 and has remained unchanged. There have therefore, been no recent discussions with Royal Mail's Remuneration Committee about his remuneration.

The chair receives a base salary but does not receive benefits, bonuses or pension payments.

### Students: Fees and Charges

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to changing the tuition fee threshold which allows institutions to bid for additional places under the core and margin model. [85772]

**Mr Willetts:** The higher education White Paper 'Students at the Heart of the System', published in June, outlined proposals to bring flexibility to the current system of student number controls in higher education institutions (HEIs) in England. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) included these new proposals in their summer consultation on the operation of teaching funding and student number controls in 2012-13. The consultation outcomes informed a bidding process that was announced by HEFCE on 17 October 2011. This invited higher education and further education institutions whose average fees, net of fee waivers, is less than £7,500, to bid for student places from a contestable 'margin' of up to 20,000 places for 2012/13. HEFCE have received bids from 203 hundred institutions for places.

HEFCE will closely monitor the impact of these changes and offer formal advice to Ministers as soon as is practicable. HEFCE will also consult on how this approach might be extended, in their forthcoming consultation on teaching funding for 2013/14 and beyond.

### Third Sector: Russia

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1122W, on third sector, how much assistance to the Russian Federation cost in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; for what purpose it was provided; and if he will make a statement. [85684]

**Mr Willetts:** The answer to the previous question from the hon. Member on funding for charities and third sector bodies should have read:

Knowledge and Innovation Group was formed at the end of 2010 after allocations for 2010-11 had been made. Most of the group's total budget reaches charities which are higher education institutions or students who attend them. We generally allocate funding to partner organisations which take independent decisions on funding for individual bodies. The following table sets out the available information requested for bodies which are directly funded by the group rather than those whose funding depends on the decisions of independent partner organisations.

*Direct grant support over £100,000*

| *2011/12* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| *Total national academies* | 87,465 |
| Royal Society | 47,830 |
| British Academy | 27,001 |
| Royal Academy of Engineering | 12,634 |
| | |
| *Other support for science* | |
| Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET) | 6,300 |
| British Science Association | 1,530 |
| Engineering UK/Big Bang Education CIC (The Big Bang Fair) | 350 |
| UK Resource Centre for Women in SET (UKRC) | 500 |
| | 8,680 |
| | |
| *Other* | |
| Design Council | 5,312 |
| Natural England | 365 |
| UK Council for International Students | 300 |
| Tate Britain | 291 |
| The British Council | 285 |
| European University Institute | 229 |
| College of Europe | 213 |
| Royal Anniversary Trust | 167 |
| Raleigh International Trust | 167 |
| Association of Commonwealth Universities | 117 |
| National Foundation for Education | 115 |
| Royal Botanic Kew Gardens | 111 |
| | 7,555 |

The Russian Federation has not received nor is scheduled to receive any funding from Knowledge and Innovation Group other than indirectly through the ESA programme.

I am sorry for any confusion the previous answer may have caused.

### UK Space Agency

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the UK Space Agency *(a)* received in 2010-11 and *(b)* will receive in 2011-12; what estimate he has made of the number of full-time equivalent staff working for the UK Space Agency in each year; and if he will make a statement. [88024]

**Mr Willetts:** The UK Space Agency was established as an Executive agency on 1 April 2011. Before this, space spend was spread across a number of Government organisations, and hence no agency budget existed.

Funding for the year 2011-12 is £229 million, further details are shown in the published "Department of Business Innovation and Skills, Allocation of Science and Research Funding" brochure

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/science/docs/a/10-1356-allocation-of-science-and-research-funding-2011-2015.pdf

which is available from the Libraries of the House. The current number of full-time equivalent staff for the agency is 37.

### Internships

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of people undertaking *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid internships that (i) are and (ii) are not graduates. [84593]

**Mr Willetts:** I refer the right hon. Member for Salford and Eccles to the answer I gave on 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 174W.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Adders: Conservation

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of trends in the number of adders in the UK. [83331]

**Richard Benyon:** Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales are supporting the work of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and local amphibian and reptile groups to assess adder populations. Early results of a national reptile survey show that adders were recorded in only 7% of the sample plots studied. If the final report confirms a worrying decline in this species the three agencies will build on existing work with partner organisations and volunteers to enhance strategies to address it.

### Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency: West Midlands

**Chris White:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to improve *(a)* communication and *(b)* response times between the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency and farmers in the West Midlands. [88533]

**Mr Paice:** In late 2011, the West Midlands Animal Health Office experienced some problems with a new national computer system which affected the efficiency of their communications with farmers.

Many of these problems have now been resolved, more staff have been moved into the TB and communications teams and additional training and support has been provided. As a result of this, farmers should already be seeing an improvement in communications from the West Midlands office.

During February and March 2012, field, laboratory and administration staff from the East Midlands and West Midlands offices and the regional laboratories will be brought together under a single management team to make full use of all available resources across the Midlands region to focus on improving service to customers.

Regular meetings are being held with the Regional National Farmers Union and other industry bodies to explore how they and the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency can work better together to improve communications and working relationships even more.

If farmers have any concerns about the time taken to respond to them individually, they are encouraged to contact the Regional Operations Director through their local office.

### Animal Welfare: Circuses

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how she plans to implement the proposed licensing scheme to prevent circuses from using wild animals if they do not provide appropriate welfare standards. [85231]

**Mr Paice:** The licensing scheme will be implemented by regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. We will consult publicly on our proposals early in 2012.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward proposals under Section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to ban the use of wild animals in circuses. [85233]

**Mr Paice:** We will be bringing forward regulations to license the use of performing wild animals in travelling circuses. We will consult on our proposals early in 2012.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of wild animals bred in UK circuses; and what her policy is on whether a licensing system will prevent circuses from *(a)* adding new animals to their collection and *(b)* breeding from existing animals. [85265]

**Mr Paice:** No new estimate has been made since the one published in the impact assessment in December 2009, but we believe the figure to be in the same region, i.e. below 40. The licensing system will focus on assuring the welfare of all wild animals in circuses. We think it unlikely that the introduction of the demanding new licensing regime we envisage will encourage any significant increase to the numbers of wild animals in circuses, either by being bought in or bred.

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when *(a)* she and *(b)* officials from her Department have met with animal welfare organisations to discuss the planned consultation on the licensing of wild animals in circuses. [85312]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA Ministers have not met with animal welfare organisations to discuss circuses since announcing on 13 May 2011 our intention to develop a new licensing system. However, since that date, officials have met with a number of animal welfare organisations, including RSPCA, Born Free, Animal Defenders International, Performing Animals Welfare Standards International, Captive Animals Protection Society, and the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to ensure that the introduction of a licensing system does not increase the number of wild animals used in circuses. [87548]

**Mr Paice:** We think it unlikely that the introduction of a demanding licensing regime will encourage any significant increase to the numbers of wild animals in circuses.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion, of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 221W, on animal welfare: circuses, what arrangements she plans to make for *(a)* parliamentarians and *(b)* members of the public to evaluate the potential of a licensing system for wild animals in circuses in circumstances where the details of confidential circus inspections are not released. [88090]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA will carry out a public consultation early in 2012 to allow any interested parties to evaluate our proposed licensing scheme for wild animals in travelling circuses. The regulations will also be subject to the usual parliamentary scrutiny procedure for statutory instruments.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 464W, on animal welfare: circuses, if she will provide details of the circumstances which the Government considered in reaching its view that confidentiality should be respected. [88447]

**Mr Paice:** The Government considered: (i) the public interest in disclosing the information; (ii) the fact that the information was obtained by DEFRA from the circuses on the understanding that it would be treated confidentially and disclosure to the public would therefore constitute a breach of confidence; (iii) the fact that disclosure of the information could endanger the physical or mental health, or the safety, of any individual in the context of reports of threats received; (iv) DEFRA's plans to consult early in 2012 on the detail of regulations that do not depend on informal inspections that went into an initial feasibility study, the findings of which are in any case in the public domain.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 465W, on animal welfare: circuses, which animal welfare organisations have *(a)* agreed and *(b)* refused to advise her Department on the proposed licensing system; what reasons were given for such acceptances or refusals; and if she will make a statement. [88448]

**Mr Paice:** As part of a recent round of meetings with stakeholders, ADI, Born Free, BVA, CAPS, HSI and the RSPCA were invited to discuss our licensing proposals but all declined the invitation.

My noble Friend, Lord Taylor of Holbeach plans to discuss the welfare of wild animals in circuses with animal welfare groups at their request.

### Animals: Imports

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which countries live *(a)* cats and *(b)* dogs are imported into the UK; and if she will make a statement. [87166]

**Mr Paice:** Live cats and dogs can be imported from any country as long as the movement conditions meet the required entry rules under the Pet Travel Scheme or Rabies Importation Order.

The vast majority of pets entering the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme belong to UK residents returning from trips abroad with their animals. Information on the locations these animals return to the UK from is not recorded.

The following list gives the main locations from which non-UK residents import cats and dogs into the UK:

France
Spain
Germany
Netherlands
Belgium
Poland
Italy
Cyprus
USA
Australia
South Africa
Turkey
Canada
United Arab Emirates.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of live *(a)* cats and *(b)* dogs which have been illegally imported into the UK in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [87167]

**Mr Paice:** All live dogs and cats are checked before entry into the UK to ensure they meet the requirements of the Pet Travel scheme. There is always the potential for illegal entry of pets through smuggling and other methods and strict action is taken in those cases, but these are considered to be minimal due to our robust checking procedures.

Information on prosecutions taken under the Rabies Order 1974 between 2007 and 2010 is listed in the following table. Information is not yet available for 2011.

| | *Prosecutions* |
|---|---|
| 2010 | 1 |
| 2009 | 14 |
| 2008 | 4 |
| 2007 | 6 |

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many live *(a)* cats and *(b)* dogs have been (i) imported into and (ii) exported from the UK in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [87165]

**Mr Paice:** The following tables provide information on the number of live cats and dogs imported into and exported from the UK in the past five years.

Export figures are only available for cats and dogs travelling outside of the EU as they must do so under a third country certificate which is issued in the UK. Cats and dogs travelling to other EU countries may do so freely under a pet passport and these movements are not monitored within the UK.

*Live cats imported into the UK*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 11,550 |
| 2008 | 13,423 |
| 2009 | 8,251 |

*Live cats imported into the UK*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2010 | 9,502 |
| 20111 | 8,544 |

[1] 1 January to 30 November 2011

*Live dogs imported into the UK*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 9,4444 |
| 2008 | 10,7042 |
| 2009 | 9,1862 |
| 2010 | 8,7008 |
| 2011[1] | 8,1142 |

[1] 1 January to 30 November 2011

*Live cats and dogs exported from the UK under third country certificate*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 9,491 |
| 2008 | 8,102 |
| 2009 | 7,951 |
| 2010 | 7,918 |
| 2011 | 8,542 |

### Biodiversity: Finance

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage the change in the funding of the Species Recovery Programme is in 2011-12; if she will make it her policy to work with Natural England to restore its funding; and if she will make a statement. [88450]

**Richard Benyon:** It is for Natural England to decide how to deploy its available grant in aid to best support its objectives. Natural England reduced the funding of its Species Recovery Programme by 54% in 2011-12 but is working with its partner organisations to reprioritise, in order to maintain, and in some cases increase, funding for specific high priority species recovery projects.

### Biofuels

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs *(a)* how much was spent on subsidy to UK producers of crops used for biofuel production and *(b)* how many tonnes of UK-grown crops have been used for biofuel production in each of the last 10 years. [87038]

**Mr Paice:** The EU's aid for energy crops, which ran for the period 2004-09, made payments to farmers growing crops for energy purposes. The scheme was a Pillar 1 measure and paid a flat rate of €45/ha for both annual and perennial energy crops. A total of over €20 million was paid out under this scheme in the UK. Further information is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/defra-stats-foodfarm-landuselivestock-nonfoodcrops-latestrelease.pdf

Currently, land under which UK crops are grown for biofuels may be eligible for Single Payment scheme and other CAP payment schemes, but these payments are not specific to whether the end use is fuel, food or other purposes. The only payments currently offered specifically for energy crops are those for miscanthus and short rotation coppice under the Energy Crops scheme. These crops are used for generating heat and electricity and are not currently used to produce liquid biofuels on a commercial scale. The Energy Crops scheme is a scheme administered by Natural England that offers grants to farmers in England for establishing miscanthus and short rotation coppice for their own energy use or to supply power stations. The scheme is split between the Energy Crops scheme (ECS) 1 (2000-06) and ECS 2 (2007-13). Payments made under ECS 1 amounted to £7,672,454. Payments under ECS 2 amounted to £838,755 as of 8 April 2011, but this figure may be subject to change. These figures and further information can be found on the Natural England website at:

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/ecs/

We have limited data on the end-use of UK-grown crops. Figures reported under the renewable transport fuels obligation (RTFO) show that in 2008-09, 753 thousand tonnes of UK-grown oilseed rape, sugar beet and wheat were used to produce UK liquid biofuels. We do not hold data on the amount of UK-grown crops that were converted to other forms of energy (such as biogas), exported and used for biofuels production abroad. Data from the RTFO is available on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/sustainable/biofuels/rtfo/

DEFRA is aware that there are limited data available on biofuels and are considering ways of improving our biofuels statistics in the near future.

### Butterfly Conservation: Finance

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had any discussions with Natural England on the effect on species recovery work of funding reductions to the charity Butterfly Conservation; and if she will make a statement. [88449]

**Richard Benyon:** Ministers have had no specific discussions with Natural England on the effects on species recovery work of reducing grant support to Butterfly Conservation. It is for Natural England to decide how it deploys its available grant in aid to best support its objectives.

Natural England, however, continues to have discussions with Butterfly Conservation over the work needed to achieve the outcomes in the Government's new Biodiversity 2020 Strategy and has increased funding to it in 2011-12 by £100,000 for high priority projects.

### Circuses

**Gavin Shuker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to allow public access to circus inspection reports. [71172]

**Mr Paice:** A number of inspections of animals in travelling circuses have been conducted by DEFRA-appointed inspectors or vets in the past decade. However, no central record is kept of such inspections, nor of any reports which might have been written as a result of an inspection. The three inspections carried out for DEFRA in 2008 as part of a feasibility study to evaluate the potential of an inspection system for such circuses were conducted on a confidential basis, and as a consequence we will not release these reports.

The proposed new circus animal licensing scheme will put inspections of travelling circuses with wild animal acts on a formal, statutory, footing. The new scheme will ensure that we have a record of all the licensing inspections carried out at these circuses. We will also want to consider what information about, and from, the inspections should be made available publicly to ensure that the scheme is as transparent as possible.

### Cocoa: EU External Trade

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's response to the British Standards Institution's recent consultation on its position for the European Committee for Standardisation vote on establishing a new European traceable and sustainable cocoa standard. [86722]

**Mr Paice:** The new European standard for sustainable and traceable cocoa is being developed by the independent industry standards body for the industry itself to comply with. DEFRA did not respond to the British Standards Institution's consultation as we believe it was for industry, producer countries and civil society to respond to.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the UK's contribution to the EU budget was accounted for by the common agricultural policy in each year since 2005 in *(a)* cash and *(b)* percentage terms. [87445]

**Mr Paice:** The UK contributes to the EU budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes within it and there is not, therefore, a specific UK contribution to common agricultural policy expenditure. Details of the UK's contributions to the EU budget for the period 2005-06 to 2010-11 are set out in Table 3B, page 16, of European Union Finances 2011 (Cm 8232).

*£ million*

| | *2005 Outturn* | *2006 Outturn* | *2007 Outturn* | *2008 Outturn* | *2009 Outturn* | *2010 Outturn* | *2011 Estimated Outturn*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gross Payments[2] | 12,483 | 12,426 | 12,456 | 12,653 | 14,129 | 15,197 | 15,289 |
| Less: UK Abatement | -3,572 | -3,569 | -3,523 | -4,862 | -5,392 | -3,047 | -3,141 |
| Less: Public sector receipts | -5,329 | -4,948 | -4,332 | -4,497 | -4,401 | -4,769 | -4,776 |
| Net contributions to EU budget[3] | 3,581 | 3,909 | 4,601 | 3,294 | 4,336 | 7,381 | 7,372 |

[1] The figures for 2011 are forecasts; those for earlier years are outturn.

[2] Gross payment figures include TOR payments at 75%. The remaining 25% is retained by the UK to cover the costs of administering collection on behalf of the EU.

[3] Due to rounding, totals may not exactly correspond to the sum of individual items.

*Source:*

HM Treasury

In 2005 expenditure on the CAP represented 46.2% of the EU budget. By 2011 this had declined to 43.7%.

*Sources:*

1. European Union Finances 2011

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8232/8232.pdf

2. Financial Management in the European Union (2007)

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0607/hc04/0401/0401.asp

### Common Fisheries Policy

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many active fishing fleets were registered in the UK in each year since 2001. [87833]

**Richard Benyon:** The UK fishing fleet plays an important role in providing food, jobs, wealth and social benefits, particularly in some coastal communities. Prior to 2006 the details of activity by vessels of 10 metres and under in England and Wales were often recorded as part of grouped data for landings and effort. As such the activity of individual vessels is not available for this time frame and has lead to the apparent low levels of active vessel data before 2006. With the introduction of the requirement for buyers and sellers of first sale fish to be registered, more accurate data started to be captured against the individual vessels involved, therefore providing details oh the activity of these vessels. This can be found in the following table, split between number of registered vessels, and those considered to be active.

| | *Number of vessels registered as at 1 January* | *Of which active during preceding year* |
|---|---|---|
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2001, active in 2000 | 7790 | 3152 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2002, active in 2001 | 7623 | 3165 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2003, active in 2002 | 7362 | 3069 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2004, active in 2003 | 7289 | 2912 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2005, active in 2004 | 7075 | 3007 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2006, active in 2005 | 6994 | 3002 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2007, active in 2006 | 6724 | 4442 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2008, active in 2007 | 6742 | 4735 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2009, active in 2008 | 6749 | 4797 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2010, active in 2009 | 6568 | 4573 |
| UK Fleet at 1 January 2011, active in 2010 | 6472 | 4634 |

## Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were convicted of offences governed by the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora in the UK in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [88333]

**Richard Benyon:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts of offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 in England and Wales from 2006-10 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 is planned for publication in spring 2012.

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences related to endangered species trafficking, England and Wales, 2006-10*[1, 2]

| *Statute* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[3] | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Offences under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

## Dairy Farming

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the conclusions of the Committee on Climate Change's Fourth Carbon Budget report and the Government Office for Science's Foresight report on Global Farming Futures on the effects of reduced consumption of meat and dairy products, what steps the Government is taking to *(a)* define and *(b)* promote a sustainable diet. [87830]

**Mr Paice:** I do not believe that Government should tell people what to eat. Our role is two-fold in providing a solid evidence base firstly to give consumers consistent messages on the information they need to be able to make informed choices for themselves; and secondly to support industry and NGOs in their work towards encouraging sustainable consumption and avoiding food waste.

DEFRA is working with industry to reduce the impact of the meat and dairy sectors throughout the lifecycle of its products, to ensure the environmental footprint of the meat and milk we consume is as low as possible, while continuing to maintain its nutritional quality.

## Dangerous Dogs

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to (1) repeal breed specific legislation in relation to dangerous dogs; [87936]

(2) extend the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to cover private property. [87937]

**Mr Paice:** Having consulted the police service and carefully considered all the other available evidence, I do not consider that there is a strong case for repealing the existing ban on the ownership of certain types of dogs.

However, my noble Friend Lord Taylor, who leads on the subject of dangerous dogs in DEFRA, has been working alongside Lord Henley to see how the proposed antisocial measures, currently being developed in the Home Office, can be best applied to such behaviour relating to dogs. DEFRA has also been developing proposals on reducing dog attacks and promoting more responsible dog ownership. This is now at an advanced stage and we expect to be able to make an announcement early in the new year.

## Departmental Assets

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assets with a value of £250,000 or more her Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if she will make a statement. [77371]

**Richard Benyon:** Detailed as follows are assets purchased and added to the Fixed Asset Register from May 2010 onwards—please note construction in progress has not been included.

| *Assets* | *Value (£)* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|---|
| Fit out costs Ergon House | 613,682 | Furniture and fittings |
| Fit out costs—Ty Merlin Carmarthen | 471,477 | Furniture and fittings |
| Biomass Boiler | 285,956 | Plant and machinery |
| Sharepoint Remediation Project (Phase 1) | 398,897 | Internally generated software |
| Whole Farm Approach Software system—R7/8 | 663,281 | Internally generated software |
| Oracle Business Suite Licences | 311,014 | Purchased software |
| Total—Core Department | 2,744,307 | |
| | | |
| Flow Cytometer Cell Sorter | 351,239 | Scientific equipment |
| Electron Microscope | 339,689 | Scientific equipment |
| Total—The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency | 690,928 | |
| | | |
| Rural Land Register Strategic Systems Upgrade | 3,478,000 | Internally generated software |
| Total—The Rural Payments Agency | 3,478,000 | |

| *Assets* | *Value (£)* | *Purpose* |
|---|---|---|
| Total for the Department | 6,913,235 | |

DEFRA's other Executive Agencies reported no assets meeting this criterion.

### Food Procurement

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [86987]

**Mr Paice:** Food purchased through DEFRA's food and catering services is incorporated within a hospitality account code and is not recorded separately. DEFRA does not receive any separate invoicing from our caterers which identifies 'food' specifically. To extract this information would incur disproportionate cost.

### Chief Scientific Adviser

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the resource budget allocation was for the office of her Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [72467]

(2) what the salary, including benefits, was of her Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many individuals have held the post in the last five years; [72468]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the office of her Department's chief scientific adviser in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and on what date the office was established. [72469]

**Richard Benyon:** Resource budget allocation figures for the office of the chief scientific adviser are only available for the last three years, and these are given in the following table. Earlier figures are unavailable as a result of internal restructuring.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 282,000 |
| 2010-11 | 274,000 |
| 2011-12 | 209,000 |

These figures cover pay costs and standard non-pay allocation.

Details of the salary, including benefits, payable to the Department's chief scientific adviser as set out in DEFRA's annual reports and accounts each year. These are available on the DEFRA website.

Two individuals have held the post of chief scientific adviser in the last five years.

DEFRA's first chief scientific adviser (CSA) was appointed on 27 February 2002. In each of the last five years the CSA's office has consisted of one full time HEO or HEO(D) Private Secretary, and one full time EO Assistant Private Secretary. Since June 2011 the EO post has been filled on a part-time basis (20 hours per week).

### Departmental Communications

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) her Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84205]

**Richard Benyon:** Communication functions in DEFRA, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies have been reviewed. The following figures reflect the situation at 25 November 2011. Job descriptions will vary from organisation to organisation.

Detailed figures relating to smaller arm lengths bodies are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Environment Agency figures cover England only.

*Press officers*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| DEFRA | 17 |
| AHVLA | 0.6 |
| British Waterways | 6 |
| CEFAS | 0.3 |
| Environment Agency | 14 |
| FERA | 1 |
| Kew | 3.5 |
| Natural England | 11.7 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 1 |
| VMD | 0 |
| MMO | 0.68 |
| Total | 51.78 |

*Internal communications officers*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| DEFRA | 7.8 |
| AHVLA | 2 |
| British Waterways | 2 |
| CEFAS | 0.2 |
| Environment Agency | 6 |
| FERA | 2 |
| Kew | 0 |
| Natural England | 4.5 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 5 |
| VMD | 0 |
| MMO | 0 |
| Total | 29.5 |

*External communication officers*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| DEFRA | 8.6 |
| AHVLA | 1.4 |
| British Waterways | 5 |
| CEFAS | 0.4 |
| Environment Agency | [1]46 |
| FERA | 0 |
| Kew | 0 |
| Natural England | 0 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 2 |
| VMD | 0 |

*External communication officers*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| MMO | 1 |
| Total | 64.4 |

[1] Communication and engagement roles within the Environment Agency are integral to work with external partners to ensure that environmental outcomes are met, including working with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations and increasing public awareness of flood risk.

*Communication strategy officers—central and corporate planning*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| DEFRA | 8.8 |
| AHVLA | 0 |
| British Waterways | 1 |
| CEFAS | 0.1 |
| Environment Agency | 20 |
| FERA | 0 |
| Kew | 0 |
| Natural England | 0 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 0 |
| VMD | 0 |
| MMO | 0 |
| Total | 29.9 |

*Other communication positions includes managerial and support staff and online communications staff*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| DEFRA | 9.4 |
| AHVLA | 2.4 |
| British Waterways | 0 |
| CEFAS | 0 |
| Environment Agency | 18 |
| FERA | 3 |
| Kew | 1 |
| Natural England | 13.7 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 0 |
| VMD | 0.5 |
| MMO | 1 |
| Total | 52 |

## Food Procurement

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83723]

**Mr Paice:** EU treaty principles of non-discrimination and the free movement of goods and services between member states prevent public bodies from discriminating in favour of domestic food suppliers. This is reflected in UK and EU procurement legislation.

In June 2011 the Government introduced Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services which specify that food procured should be produced to UK or equivalent standards, except where that would incur an increase in overall cost. We want to drive up standards and encourage people to buy food with the highest production and animal welfare standards.

Officials are taking action to encourage these standards to be adopted as a minimum across the public sector and this will include all agencies and arms length bodies with which DEFRA is engaged. DEFRA's current catering contract covers the whole of DEFRA's estate including Fera, the Rural Payments Agency, Natural England, AHVLA and DECC and we are working with the caterer to ensure that Government Buying Standards are met in full.

The percentage of food under the contract between May and September 2011 that was sourced specifically from the UK was:

Meat: 43.5%

Poultry: 67.1%

Fruit and Veg: 23.3% of total, 38.5% of indigenous.

## Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were working in her Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87349]

**Richard Benyon:** Staff in-post statistics are compiled at the end of each month. The number of full-time equivalent staff who were employed in DEFRA, at the dates nearest to those requested, are as follows:

30 April 2010: 2,558

30 November 2011: 2,091.

## Official Hospitality

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in each of the last 12 months. [73663]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA's spend on hospitality organised through ministerial offices for the months requested is given in the following table. Spend is not recorded according to which Minister hosted a particular event. It is also possible that some spend on events hosted by Ministers was incurred by other areas of the Department, but this information is not recorded centrally.

| *Month* | *Ministerial expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| November 2010 | 646.80 |
| December 2010 | 218.12 |
| January 2011 | 205.90 |
| February 2011 | 0 |
| March 2011 | 767.32 |
| April 2011 | 699.95 |
| May 2011 | 0 |
| June 2011 | 446.30 |
| July 2011 | 411.80 |
| August 2011 | 0 |
| September 2011 | 205.90 |
| Total | 3,602.09 |

All expenditure incurred was in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on hospitality by her Department since May 2010. [80268]

**Richard Benyon:** The total amount spent on hospitality by the Department since May 2010 through to November 2011 is £155,362.

For information the following table includes the statistics for the preceding three years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| April 2007 to March 2008 | 320,850 |
| April 2008 to March 2009 | 216,086 |
| April 2009 to March 2010 | 400,271 |
| April 2010 | 40,274 |
| May 2010 to November 2011 | 155,362 |

### Procurement

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methodology *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible used to estimate savings to the public purse made in respect of its procurement and purchasing since May 2010. [69279]

**Richard Benyon:** On 15 November 2010, *Official Report,* columns 615-16W, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), said in response to PQ16752 that the Government had announced a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector, including:

a reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15;

radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across Government; and

the Efficiency and Reform Group's tough new efficiency regime which will drive savings in procurement, major projects and estate management.

In August 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), announced that the Efficiency and Reform Group's new measures had saved £3.75 billion over 2010-11.

This impact was assessed using methodologies attached at Annex A which describes the results across Government. The assessment has been independently verified by Government auditors who found the benefits assertions to be fairly calculated and presented.

The Department, its Executive agencies and NDPBs also generate other procurement savings on other categories of expenditure through the four areas of:

Renegotiation of existing contracts

Efficiencies made in the actual buying process

Demand Management

Reconfiguration of service delivery on items such as telephony, interims etc.

These savings are borne out in Department accounts. Note 10 (page 92) of the DEFRA Report and Accounts 2010-11 (HC1003) reports that non-pay Gross Admin Costs (excluding non-cash items) for DEFRA reduced from £253 million in 2009-10 to £222 million in 2010-11. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury resource accounting and budgeting guidance.

In addition to using the methodologies described as follows for other categories, DEFRA uses the National Audit Office's definition of VFM to demonstrate savings.

*Annex A—Activity and calculation method*

| | *Activity* | *Calculation* |
|---|---|---|
| Consulting | Government put in place a moratorium on new consulting spend, and extensions to existing contracts. Where spend was considered operationally critical (for example, where it might put at risk critical services) an exception process existed for department ministers to sign off expenditure over £20,000. | Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2009-10. To reduce the risk of costs shifting between categories, we also monitored expenditure on other Professional Services categories, including contingent labour. |
| Crown Commercial | Government have renegotiated deals with some of the largest suppliers to Government. | The method of calculation varies according to the initiative that yields the saving, but was based on cash releasing savings against a baseline of what would have otherwise been spent. This was often price savings against the previous price paid. Savings agreed with suppliers are recorded in Memoranda of Understanding as guaranteed-in-year or conditional-in-year savings. Realised savings were subsequently tracked back to departmental verification of supplier progress reports. |
| Contingent Labour | Government have significantly cut the number of temporary staff. | Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2010-11 from total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2009-10. |
| Communications | Government froze all new marketing spend unless it is an operational necessity. Where spend was proposed, ministerial sign-off was required for £20,000 or above. | Calculations compare departmental spend on marketing and advertising through COI for 2010-11 with that for 2009-10. |
| Centralising Procurement | Government have started to centralise spend on common goods and services to drive down prices. These savings derive from the 10 categories of expenditure targeted for centralisation, and relate to price savings through increased aggregation. | For each initiative, calculations are performed using individual benefit methodologies that set out how savings will be calculated against an 2009-10 price baseline. Evidence is management information provided by suppliers. |

*Annex A—Activity and calculation method*

| | *Activity* | *Calculation* |
|---|---|---|
| ICT | Government implemented: a moratorium on all new ICT spend above £1 million; and a review of all on-going ICT commitments. Departments reported those projects that were closed before undergoing the review. | Calculations are based on departmental reports of spend that has not proceeded. Spend that has not gone ahead in 2010-11 is recorded, as a result of stopping or reducing spend. Further, sustainable savings are targeted through the Government ICT strategy. |
| Major Projects | The Government's biggest projects were reviewed to see where 2010-11 costs could practically be reduced within contractual constraints, or wasteful projects stopped altogether. Government halted or curtailed spend on four projects: 14-19 Reform—£60 million Identity Cards—£50 million Highways Agency Projects—£54 million Whole Farm—£6.7 million Government have redacted £22 million of potential double counting from these figures, that arises between this work and our supplier renegotiation work stream. £14.9 million arises from the Home Office National Identity Cards and £6.7 million from DEFRA Whole Farm. | HMT have provided assurance that the relevant amounts were removed from departmental budgets following the Major Projects related negotiations. |
| Property | Government put in place national property controls such that signature of new property leases or lease extensions were approved centrally. It has not always been possible to net off all costs associated with vacating buildings. However, Government have also not claimed savings in respect of revenue from property disposals. | Calculations are property by property based on the amount Departments have reported saved through the Government's property database by non-renewal of property leases at lease breaks or upon lease expiry. |

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on new furnishings in the last year. [73123]

**Richard Benyon:** Core DEFRA's total spend for the last financial year (2010-11) on furnishings (including office furniture) is estimated at £227,124. This includes furnishing needs arising from office refurbishments and relocations.

## Departmental Publications

**Dan Jarvis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports her Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83005]

**Richard Benyon:** Since May 2010 DEFRA has used two separate publishing contracts. For the financial year 2010-11 information is available on publishing and design costs for leaflets, posters and reports on a monthly basis as set out in Table A. However, exact numbers of individual publications are not available and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost. This contract was handled by Communisis, who were appointed via fair and open competition, and who have handled the majority of such work for DEFRA in this period.

*Table A*

| | *Design costs* | *Print costs* | £ *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2010 | 7,320 | 39,287 | 46,607 |
| June 2010 | 20,475 | 87,881 | 108,356 |
| July 2010 | 5,240 | 36,885 | 42,125 |
| August 2010 | 1,470 | 13,761 | 15,231 |
| September 2010 | 0 | 37,961 | 37,961 |
| October 2010 | 7,349 | 60,736 | 67,736 |
| November 2010 | 19,070 | 59,625 | 78,695 |
| December 2010 | 11,250 | 34,059 | 45,309 |
| January 2011 | 920 | 32,315 | 33,235 |
| February 2011 | 3,145 | 25,745 | 28,890 |
| March 2011 | 7,500 | 33,917 | 41,417 |
| Total | 83,739 | 462,172 | 545,562 |

In total, 393 jobs were invoiced.

Since March 2011, a contract with Publishing Delivery Service (PDS) was used, also appointed on a fair and open competitive basis.

In addition the Central Office of Information (COI), and various agents who work with them, have undertaken some publishing and design work for the Department. Due to the way costs are categorised it is not possible to separate out design and publishing costs separately, although it is possible to provide a composite figure. Please see Table B for 2010-11.

It is not currently possible to provide information on the 2011-12 financial year as figures have not yet been confirmed by final audit.

*Table B: COI and linked agencies—financial year 2010-11*

| | *Design and print costs (£)* |
|---|---|
| May 2010 | 6,635 |
| June 2010 | 4,471 |
| July 2010 | 3,391 |
| August 2010 | 38,341 |
| September 2010 | 608 |
| October 2010 | 2,886 |
| November 2010 | 1,520 |
| December 2010 | 23,717 |
| January 2011 | 4,475 |

*Table B: COI and linked agencies—financial year 2010-11*

| | *Design and print costs (£)* |
|---|---|
| February 2011 | 37,647 |
| March 2011 | 21,666 |
| Total | 145,356 |

In total, 163 jobs were invoiced.

### Secondment

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what secondments there have been to her Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86141]

**Richard Benyon:** Since May 2010 there has been one secondment into DEFRA from industry and there have not been any from the third sector.

The secondee is a technical analyst working on requirements, design and testing on the UK Location programme. The duration of the secondment is two years. The secondment is not to a policy development role.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many temporary staff have been recruited to her Department between September and November 2011. [88007]

**Richard Benyon:** Temporary staff are people directly employed by core DEFRA under employment contracts of less than 12 months and paid via the DEFRA payroll. Between September and November 2011, no temporary staff were recruited to core DEFRA.

### Detergents

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the adequacy of regulation of the use of environmentally harmful chemicals in household detergents. [87392]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has not received any representations on the adequacy of regulation of the use of environmentally harmful chemicals in household detergents.

### Dogs: Tagging

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the likely cost to the public purse of the compulsory microchipping of dogs; [86637]

(2) what assessment she has made of the operation of the voluntary microchipping system for dogs. [86639]

**Mr Paice:** Officials have prepared an assessment of all aspects of microchipping, including the voluntary system and the cost of compulsory microchipping, and this assessment will inform DEFRA policy.

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the mandatory electronic chipping of dogs; and if she will make a statement. [87404]

**Mr Paice:** The Government support voluntary identification of pets—by microchipping, permanent identification and the registering of pets on nationwide databases. DEFRA Ministers and officials are currently engaged with key stakeholders from wider government, the police and animal welfare organisations concerning the content of possible legislation, including the microchipping of dogs.

We intend to make an announcement on tackling irresponsible dog ownership early in the new year.

### Elephants: Africa

**Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support the Government is providing through international organisations to tackle the poaching of elephants in Central and West Africa. [87154]

**Richard Benyon:** The UK as a party to the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) supports its efforts to maintain or enhance countries' enforcement capabilities. In May this year, the UK participated in a CITES-organised rhino and elephant enforcement task force meeting at which intelligence reports and methodologies were exchanged and strategies were developed to tackle the illegal trade in both animals across their ranges.

The UK provides funds for two CITES monitoring programmes: Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), which were set up to monitor and assess the levels of poaching and trafficking to inform subsequent decisions in CITES.

We will continue to look to engage constructively in international discussions on his issue and assist elephant range states where needed. For example, African elephant range states have recently agreed an action plan covering a wide range of conservation measures. The UK is contributing funds to this work.

**Neil Parish:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial support her Department is providing to the African Elephant Action Plan through the African Elephant Fund. [87663]

**Richard Benyon:** The Department has recently agreed funding of £32,000 for the African Elephant Fund in support of the African Elephant Action Plan.

### EU Landfill Directive

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the EU Landfill Directive since its introduction. [87829]

**Richard Benyon:** The EU Landfill Directive, first implemented in 2002, has helped bring about consistently high standards in the design, operation, closure and aftercare of landfill sites, the costs of which fall to landfill site operators. DEFRA has not undertaken any specific assessment of the estimated cost to the public purse of the Directive.

In line with the waste hierarchy, landfill is the least preferred option for the disposal of biodegradable and recyclable waste. This is on the grounds that it is a waste of resources, and because landfill gas is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

The additional costs of the Directive requirements to divert biodegradable municipal waste from landfill above and beyond the baseline trend have largely fallen to local authorities. The Landfill Allowance Trading scheme (LATS) was introduced in 2005 to meet these diversion targets. DEFRA has allocated waste infrastructure credits (formerly PFI credits) to part-finance 32 local authority infrastructure projects which will divert biodegradable municipal waste from landfill. The payments to local authorities will total £4 billion.

Subsequent to the introduction of the LATS, landfill tax has been raised significantly. This is in order to reduce the environmental impact of landfilling, and promote more sustainable treatment of waste both covered by the Landfill directive targets and that which is not. As a result, it was agreed as part of the 2011 Review of Waste Policy in England to end LATS in 2013. Both the proposals to set up the scheme and to end it were accompanied by impact assessments on the costs and benefits.

Copies of these impact assessments are available on DEFRA's website.

## Fisheries

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of active fishermen in each *(a)* constituent part of the UK and *(b)* region in each year since 2001. [87836]

**Richard Benyon:** The UK fishing industry provides many jobs in coastal communities, and brings both social and economic benefits to communities where other opportunities to find employment are often scarce. The following tables contains data relating to the number of full-time and part-time fishermen. The data has been broken down into regions within each constituent part of the UK. Prior to 2004, the data collected regarding the number of fishermen employed in the fishing industry was only broken down into constituent parts, rather than the major port areas.

*Number of fishermen employed through the fishing industry (full time and part time) by constituent part of UK*

| | Regular | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| *England* | | | | | | | |
| North Eastern | 705 | 666 | 623 | 465 | 497 | 468 | 468 |
| Humberside | 925 | 801 | 946 | 952 | 900 | 802 | 802 |
| Eastern | 617 | 473 | 404 | 196 | 505 | 631 | 631 |
| South Eastern | 1,042 | 1,235 | 895 | 1,272 | 1,230 | 1,191 | 1,191 |
| South Western | 1,087 | 949 | 1,017 | 868 | 908 | 920 | 920 |
| Western | 1,121 | 1,050 | 951 | 840 | 472 | 612 | 612 |
| North Western | 61 | 56 | 61 | 99 | 58 | 144 | 144 |
| Total | 5,558 | 5,230 | 4,897 | 4,692 | 4,570 | 4,768 | 4,768 |
| *Wales* | | | | | | | |
| All Areas | 806 | 796 | 805 | 376 | 341 | 417 | 563 |
| Total | 806 | 796 | 805 | 376 | 341 | 417 | 563 |
| *Scotland* | | | | | | | |
| Eyemouth | 161 | 152 | 157 | 148 | 133 | 140 | 148 |
| Pittenweem | 112 | 107 | 101 | 95 | 117 | 140 | 120 |
| Aberdeen | 105 | 91 | 118 | 103 | 102 | 94 | 94 |
| Peterhead | 374 | 273 | 412 | 469 | 434 | 408 | 400 |
| Fraserburgh | 603 | 614 | 614 | 693 | 901 | 712 | 671 |
| Buckie | 266 | 227 | 230 | 228 | 220 | 226 | 192 |
| Scrabster and Wick | 214 | 157 | 165 | 197 | 191 | 170 | 168 |
| Orkney | 305 | 284 | 288 | 317 | 287 | 275 | 277 |
| Shetland | 260 | 304 | 315 | 352 | 257 | 246 | 231 |
| Stornoway | 225 | 238 | 299 | 343 | 414 | 370 | 350 |
| Kinlochbervie | 38 | 41 | 36 | 40 | 40 | 43 | 44 |
| Lochinver | 41 | 35 | 28 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 21 |
| Ullapool | 70 | 74 | 75 | 86 | 88 | 298 | 274 |
| Mallaig and Portree | 254 | 268 | 297 | 290 | 296 | 290 | 277 |
| Oban | 198 | 163 | 175 | 168 | 239 | 250 | 242 |
| Campbeltown | 259 | 256 | 292 | 248 | 239 | 226 | 231 |
| Ayr | 639 | 529 | 507 | 609 | 605 | 493 | 517 |
| Total | 4,124 | 3,813 | 4,109 | 4,408 | 4,585 | 4,403 | 4,257 |
| *Northern Ireland* | | | | | | | |
| North Coast | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 26 | 24 |
| Kilkeel | 250 | 255 | 255 | 242 | 235 | 230 | 225 |
| Portavogie | 176 | 154 | 185 | 195 | 186 | 187 | 176 |
| Ard glass | 89 | 85 | 87 | 100 | 91 | 98 | 110 |
| Total | 535 | 514 | 547 | 557 | 532 | 541 | 535 |
| United Kingdom | 11,023 | 10,353 | 10,358 | 10,033 | 10,028 | 10,129 | 10,172 |

| | Part Time | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| *England* | | | | | | | |
| North Eastern | 16 | 32 | 33 | 80 | 99 | 107 | 14 |
| Humberside | 68 | 129 | 125 | 79 | 107 | 70 | 0 |
| Eastern | 60 | 65 | 94 | 135 | 49 | 33 | 51 |
| South Eastern | 238 | 47 | 397 | 15 | 311 | 102 | 364 |
| South Western | 37 | 71 | 73 | 202 | 166 | 166 | 232 |
| Western | 257 | 261 | 272 | 327 | 335 | 99 | 227 |
| North Western | 149 | 141 | 66 | 59 | 85 | 13 | 68 |
| Total | 825 | 746 | 1,060 | 897 | 1,152 | 590 | 956 |
| *Wales* | | | | | | | |
| All Areas | 370 | 335 | 354 | 597 | 534 | 434 | 553 |
| Total | 370 | 335 | 354 | 597 | 534 | 434 | 553 |

| | *Part Time* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| *Scotland* | | | | | | | |
| Eyemouth | 12 | 16 | 19 | 20 | 13 | 11 | 45 |
| Pittenweem | 30 | 35 | 35 | 30 | 47 | 34 | 43 |
| Aberdeen | 52 | 72 | 44 | 54 | 49 | 58 | 58 |
| Peterhead | 43 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 31 | 53 | 24 |
| Fraserburgh | 122 | 150 | 149 | 153 | 0 | 114 | 118 |
| Buckie | 27 | 21 | 25 | 27 | 50 | 47 | 51 |
| Scrabster and Wick | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Orkney | 38 | 51 | 54 | 73 | 43 | 146 | 132 |
| Shetland | 187 | 147 | 156 | 174 | 216 | 184 | 217 |
| Stornoway | 258 | 249 | 187 | 137 | 105 | 89 | 73 |
| Kinlochbervie | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lochinver | 5 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Ullapool | 4 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 11 |
| Mallaig and Portree | 98 | 113 | 115 | 82 | 79 | 45 | 43 |
| Oban | 78 | 81 | 74 | 55 | 29 | 29 | 23 |
| Campbeltown | 70 | 69 | 35 | 34 | 32 | 28 | 28 |
| Ayr | 125 | 136 | 136 | 245 | 96 | 90 | 42 |
| Total | 1,151 | 1,158 | 1,096 | 1,101 | 807 | 946 | 909 |
| *Northern Ireland* | | | | | | | |
| North Coast | 5 | 5 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 30 | 30 |
| Kilkeel | 50 | 25 | 25 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 62 |
| Portavogie | 24 | 20 | 22 | 22 | 15 | 17 | 15 |
| Ard glass | 5 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Total | 84 | 55 | 66 | 101 | 93 | 113 | 113 |
| United Kingdom | 2,430 | 2,294 | 25,76 | 2,696 | 2,586 | 2,083 | 2,531 |

| | *Total* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| *England* | | | | | | | |
| North Eastern | 721 | 698 | 656 | 545 | 596 | 575 | 531 |
| Humberside | 993 | 930 | 1,071 | 1,031 | 1,007 | 872 | 820 |
| Eastern | 677 | 538 | 498 | 331 | 554 | 664 | 581 |
| South Eastern | 1,280 | 1,282 | 1,292 | 1,287 | 1,541 | 1,293 | 1,585 |
| South Western | 1,124 | 1,020 | 1,090 | 1,070 | 1,074 | 1,086 | 1,223 |
| Western | 1,378 | 1,311 | 1,223 | 1,167 | 807 | 711 | 898 |
| North Western | 210 | 197 | 127 | 158 | 143 | 157 | 135 |
| Total | 6,383 | 5,976 | 5,957 | 5,589 | 5,722 | 5,358 | 5,773 |
| *Wales* | | | | | | | |
| All Areas | 1,176 | 1,131 | 1,159 | 973 | 875 | 851 | 1,116 |
| Total | 1,176 | 1,131 | 1,159 | 973 | 875 | 851 | 1,116 |
| *Scotland* | | | | | | | |
| Eyemouth | 173 | 168 | 176 | 168 | 146 | 151 | 193 |
| Pittenweem | 142 | 142 | 136 | 125 | 164 | 174 | 163 |
| Aberdeen | 157 | 163 | 162 | 157 | 151 | 152 | 152 |
| Peterhead | 417 | 273 | 457 | 469 | 465 | 461 | 424 |
| Fraserburgh | 725 | 764 | 763 | 846 | 901 | 826 | 789 |
| Buckie | 293 | 248 | 255 | 255 | 270 | 273 | 243 |
| Scrabster and Wick | 214 | 157 | 165 | 197 | 191 | 170 | 168 |
| Orkney | 343 | 335 | 342 | 390 | 330 | 421 | 409 |
| Shetland | 447 | 451 | 471 | 526 | 473 | 430 | 448 |
| Stornoway | 483 | 487 | 486 | 480 | 519 | 459 | 423 |
| Kinlochbervie | 40 | 43 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 43 | 44 |
| Lochinver | 46 | 45 | 36 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 22 |
| Ullapool | 74 | 80 | 84 | 99 | 101 | 313 | 285 |
| Mallaig and Portree | 352 | 381 | 412 | 372 | 375 | 335 | 320 |
| Oban | 276 | 244 | 249 | 223 | 268 | 279 | 265 |
| Campbeltown | 329 | 325 | 327 | 282 | 271 | 254 | 259 |
| Ayr | 764 | 665 | 643 | 854 | 701 | 583 | 559 |
| Total | 5,275 | 4,971 | 5,205 | 5,509 | 5,392 | 5,349 | 5,166 |
| *Northern Ireland* | | | | | | | |
| North Coast | 25 | 25 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 56 | 54 |
| Kilkeel | 300 | 280 | 280 | 302 | 295 | 290 | 287 |
| Portavogie | 200 | 174 | 207 | 217 | 201 | 204 | 191 |
| Ard glass | 94 | 90 | 94 | 107 | 97 | 104 | 116 |
| Total | 619 | 569 | 613 | 658 | 625 | 654 | 648 |
| United Kingdom | 13,453 | 12,647 | 12,934 | 12,729 | 12,614 | 12,212 | 12,703 |

| | *England and Wales* | | | *Scotland* | | | *Northern Ireland* | | | *UK* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Regular* | *PT* | *Total* | *Regular* | *PT* | *Total* | *Regular* | *PT* | *Total* | *Regular* | *PT* | *Total* |
| 2001 | 6.057 | 1,392 | 7,449 | 5,353 | 1,284 | 6,637 | 513 | 46 | 559 | 11,923 | 2,722 | 14,645 |
| 2002 | 5,587 | 841 | 6,428 | 4,369 | 1,338 | 5,707 | 568 | 43 | 611 | 10,524 | 2,222 | 12,746 |
| 2003 | 4,866 | 1,404 | 6,270 | 3,918 | 1,088 | 5,006 | 458 | 40 | 498 | 9,242 | 2.532 | 11,774 |

## Fisheries: North West

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to review Bylaw 5 as it relates to the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. [87373]

**Richard Benyon:** The management of inshore fisheries, including cockling, has been devolved to the inshore fisheries and conservation authorities (IFCAs) through the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) and they are responsible for completing a review of all byelaws by April 2015. I understand that the North Western IFCA is urgently reviewing Byelaw 5 and will be discussing possible revisions in due course.

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the North Western

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority on enforcement of approved licences. [87374]

**Richard Benyon:** The North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) is responsible for the management of inshore fisheries in the north west, including the enforcement of licences. This is a matter for North Western IFCA, having been delegated these powers under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009).

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that those who hold licences issued by the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) are able to exercise their employment; and what assessment she has made of the loss of earnings of NWIFCA-licensed cockle fisherman. [87376]

**Richard Benyon:** The North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) issues licences for various activities as part of their management of inshore fisheries on the north west coast of England. Should the need arise, the IFCA can close a fishery, as recently happened with the cockle beds on the Ribble Estuary and the Wirral. The closure of a fishery and any decision to re-open it is a matter for the IFCA. Consequently, no assessment has been made by DEFRA of the loss of earning to licensed cockle fishermen in the north west as a result of the recent fishery closures.

### Fishing Catches

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the total tonnage of fish discards in UK waters in each year of the Common Fisheries Policy's operation. [87831]

**Richard Benyon:** UK fisheries laboratories have been sending scientific observers to sea to record the quantity of fish discarded by the UK since 1975. The data collected on these trips is used to estimate the quantities offish discarded by UK vessels in European waters. Figures are estimates only, with the accuracy of the figures depending on the level of sampling coverage.

A breakdown of discards by fishery is available for 2008 to 2010 and summarised in the following table. Figures for 2011 have yet to be analysed.

While data have been collected by Government laboratories since 1975, estimates made prior to 2008 are not available in the same format. For this reason they are not included.

*Discard estimates (kilotonnes per year)*

| | *English and Welsh[1] (demersal)* | *Scottish (cod, haddock, whiting, saithe only)* | *UK pelagic species* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 9.4 | 35.1 | 4.9 | 49.9 |
| 2009 | [2]24.406 | 24.401 | 8.27 | 59.085 |
| 2010 | [2]26.626 | 25.071 | [3]— | 51.697 |

[1] Northern Irish estimates are unavailable across all years.

[2] Sampling coverage has generally improved in some areas and fleets since 2009. Since 2009 English and Welsh estimates include discards of all species, not just quota species. Furthermore, the under 10m sector estimates have also been included.

[3] Unavailable.

The UK is running a number of initiatives to reduce discards. These include trials of catch quota management (a quota for what is caught at sea rather than landed at port) for North sea cod and area 7e sole. Results have been very positive. For example, the English catch quota scheme has reduced discards of species subject to catch quotas to 0.25%. Through trialling catch quota and other standalone projects, the UK continues to encourage fishermen to take up and develop more selective fishing gears to avoid unwanted catches in the first place.

DEFRA has also commissioned the Fishing for the Markets research to look at the market side of the problem. The research made recommendations on how to increase the consumption and use of under-utilised, sustainable species that are often discarded. The work is continuing in partnership with the Seafood Industry.

### Flood Control: Finance

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of changes in spending on flood defences on the budgets for clearing up after flooding of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* insurance companies and *(d)* local land owners; [81469]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect of changes on spending on flood defences on the cost of clearing up after flooding in Sefton, West Lancashire and Ribble. [81470]

**Richard Benyon:** Central Government responsibility for recovery after a flood, including clearing-up, rests with the Department for Communities and Local Government. Therefore there has been no impact on budgets for clearing up after flooding as a result of changes in spending on flood defences.

### Food: Exports

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to promote exports of British food to other EU member states. [87752]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA has a key role to play in supporting the food and farming sector become more competitive and sustainable. Taking advantage of new opportunities in overseas markets is important to the UK's long-term growth prospects for the sector, and DEFRA works closely with UK Trade and Investment to help realise opportunities in international markets.

We are progressing work on the DEFRA Business plan commitment to work with the food and drink industry, and other Government Departments, to take full advantage of the potential for growth through overseas trade (including by identifying global market opportunities and barriers to exports). As part of this, the Government announced in the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), autumn statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 799-810, a commitment to publish a joint government/industry Agri-food and Drink Exports Action plan in January 2012, which will set a shared vision to drive export growth in the sector as well as setting out areas for immediate action.

The Action plan will focus on opening international markets for the food and farming sector, ensuring the right information and support is available to help companies succeed overseas, simplifying the process for food specific export paperwork, and promoting the best of British food and drink overseas. To support this, last year I personally attended Anuga in Germany, one of the world's largest food and drink tradeshows, to support UK companies working to access overseas markets both in the EU and beyond.

### Food: Waste

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider reviewing the best before dates for low-risk food products for the purposes of reducing food waste. [88788]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA issued guidance on the application of date marking to food businesses in September 2011 to help them improve the consistency of the use of the 'best before' and 'use by' date marks to prevent food being needlessly thrown away.

The guidance will help businesses to decide whether to label their food products with either a 'best before' or a 'use by' date. Either one or the other of these dates is required by law but the choice is a technical decision by the food manufacturer. The guidance is principally a decision tree asking a series of important questions around the production of a food product from a microbiological perspective.

The guidance also includes a short guide especially prepared to assist small and medium-sized business. It will aid compliance with the law and assist food businesses which do not have in-house knowledge or expertise to decide which date marks should apply to which foods and if they need to seek further advice, e.g. from their local authority or a specialist food consultant.

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce waste across the food supply chain. [88791]

**Mr Paice:** The Government's "Review of Waste Policy in England", published in June 2011, sets out our aim to move towards a zero waste economy. It outlines our long-term vision for food waste, which includes substantially reducing the amount arising.

DEFRA is working with food retailers and manufacturers via the Courtauld Commitment, a responsibility deal aimed at improving resource efficiency and reducing the carbon and wider environmental impact of the grocery retail sector. We are also working with industry, the Devolved Administrations and the Waste and Resources Action programme to develop a new responsibility deal with the hospitality and food service sectors to reduce food and packaging waste and ensure that unavoidable waste is managed sustainably.

We will continue to work with businesses and consumers to ensure less food is wasted by sharing insight, evidence and best practice, improving product design and retail and supply chain practice, engaging consumers, and encouraging local partnership approaches.

We will also lead by example by tackling food waste across the public sector estate.

### Government Procurement Card

**Chris Kelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by her Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on which dates. [73724]

**Richard Benyon:** Information prior to 1 June 2009 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table provides detail of cash withdrawals by officials working in support of Ministers in core DEFRA for the period 1 June 2009 to 31 March 2010. The cost of these withdrawals was £124.54.

Cash is withdrawn to cover the reasonable costs of providing modest refreshments for ministerial meetings, including with external stakeholders, and a full log of receipts is kept to account for this.

*1 June 2009 to 31 March 2010*

| *Expense line date* | *Justification* | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| 24 September 2009 | Cash taken out for Petty Cash—24 September 2009 | 100.00 |
| 4 November 2009 | Petty Cash for Secretariat Messengers (Exemption agreed) | 200.00 |
| 23 November 2009 | Petty Cash for Secretariat Messengers (Exemption agreed) | 200.00 |
| 1 February 2010 | Petty Cash for Secretariat Messengers (Exemption agreed) | 200.00 |
| 1 March 2010 | Petty Cash for Secretariat Messengers (Exemption agreed) | 200.00 |
| 25 October 2009 | Taxi, food, subsistence | 80.00 |
| 13 December 2009 | Taxi £70, subsistence | 80.00 |
| 22 November 2009 | Taxi, food, subsistence | 40.00 |
| 25 February 2010 | Cash to cover taxi/tube/fares | 30.00 |
| 14 January 2010 | Cash to cover future bus/tube/taxis for meetings | 30.00 |
| 23 July 2009 | Cash for travel with Minister | 50.06 |
| 7 October 2009 | Cash for taxi to Department to pick up papers then on to train station for ministerial visit | 40.00 |
| 7 October 2009 | Cash for Minster's taxi from station | 40.00 |
| 2 December 2009 | Cash in USD to cover expenses during Ghana trip | 100.87 |
| 24 November 2009 | Cash to pay for Minister and PS visas to Ghana | 60.00 |
| 25 February 2010 | Cash to cover taxis and other small expenses | 40.00 |
| 16 November 2009 | Cash to cover taxi during Ross on Wye trip | 30.00 |
| 20 November 2009 | Cash handling fee | 20.00 |
| 6 October 2009 | Petty Cash for Secretariat Messengers (Exemption agreed) | 200.00 |
| 5 August 2009 | Petty Cash for Secretariat Messengers (Exemption agreed) | 200.00 |
| 11 May 2009 | Petty Cash for Secretariat Messengers (Exemption agreed) | 200.00 |
| 16 September 2009 | Reimburse Minister and pay for incidentals on trip: £89 for Minister's hotel on 9 September 2009 £8.50 for incidental costs on 9 September 2009 £98 train tickets on 6 September 2009 £32 taxi fares on 15-17 September 2009 | 220.00 |
| 31 July 2009 | Cash withdrawal to reimburse Minister's incidental expenses | 130.00 |
| 22 June 2009 | Cash withdraw to exchange to Euros | 100.47 |

*1 June 2009 to 31 March 2010*

| *Expense line date* | *Justification* | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| 21 October 2009 | Cash withdrawal to pay for:£30 taxi from Bristol Airport to Communicate Conference Venue on 21 October 2009 £75 taxi from Conference Venue to Swindon to catch train for debate in house 21 October 2009 £10.54 lunch at Swindon train station | 100.00 |
| 4 November 2009 | Cash withdrawal to pay for: £18—taxi from Edinburgh airport to conference venue on 4 November 2009 £7.10—drinks at venue 4 November 20090 £5.60—taxi from venue to hotel on 4 November 2009 £16.50—taxi from hotel to airport on 5 November 2009 | 100.00 |
| 10 August 2009 | Cash withdrawal to reimburse the Minister and pay for incidentals on the trip to Scotland: £13 lunch at Fort William £14 coffees/minor refreshments for two in Mallaig £20 taxi from train station to hotel £20 and £18 taxi fares from Bridgend to Maesteg | 100.00 |
| 7 August 2009 | To reimburse the Minister: £75 for Hotel in Crewe on 27 July 2009 £22 for taxi from Bridgend to Maesteg on 22 July 2009 | 100.00 |
| 20 October 2009 | Cash Withdrawal in Luxembourg to pay for lunch and miscellaneous expenses while at Fisheries Council | 93.98 |
| 24 June 2009 | Cash withdrawal to reimburse Minister | 90.00 |
| 7 October 2009 | Cash withdrawal of 500DKK to pay for:225DKK for taxi from venue to airport on 8 October 2009 103DKK for taxi from hotel to conference venue on 8 October 2009 170DKK miscellaneous (coffee etc.) | 64.02 |
| 7 October 2009 | Currency exchange from £ to 400DKK to pay for:80DKK for drinks at airport on 7 October 2009 209DKK for taxi from airport to hotel on 7 October 2009 206DKK for dinner at airport on 8 October 2009 | 56.55 |
| 21 October 2009 | Cash withdrawal to pay for taxi from Paris hotel to CDG Airport 60EUR | 55.95 |
| 26 July 2009 | Cash withdrawal from Grantham Station to pay for taxis to and from CLA Game Fair (return taxi receipt missing) | 50.00 |
| 15 December 2009 | Cash withdrawal in Brussels to purchase coffees and lunches throughout Council proceedings on 14-16 December | 46.14 |
| 7 December 2009 | Cash withdrawal to pay for taxis, coffee and lunch for the Minister's trip while in Scotland on 7 December | 40.00 |
| 1 February 2010 | Cash withdrawal to fund £30 taxi following cancelled train and £10.04 for food at the station | 40.00 |
| 8 December 2009 | To reimburse Minister for taxis from Scotland Office in Edinburgh to Airport on 7 December | 20.00 |

## Japan Tobacco

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in her Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87612]

**Richard Benyon:** Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on DEFRA's website. Information for 1 July 2011 onwards will be published in due course.

DEFRA Ministers and special advisers have not received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010.

## Livestock Industry

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to oppose the European Commission's proposals to legislate against the prophylactic use of antibiotics in livestock farming. [87807]

**Mr Paice:** The European Parliament's resolution of 27 October 2011 called for the phasing out of the prophylactic use of antibiotics in livestock farming. The European Commission's communication on its "Action plan against the rising threats from antimicrobial resistance", published on 17 November 2011, did not specifically mention prophylaxis when referring to the veterinary use of antibiotics. The European Commission has not yet published any proposals to change EU legislation on the regulation of veterinary medicines.

## Marine Conservation Zones

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites have been assessed as having adequate supporting scientific evidence for designation as a marine conservation zone. [83080]

**Richard Benyon:** The independent Science Advisory Panel (SAP) recently carried out an initial assessment of the evidence base for the proposed marine conservation zone (MCZ) sites. This assessment was based on the information presented by the four regional MCZ projects. The SAP concluded that around 25% of the recommendations appeared to be well supported by the evidence presented and recommended an in-depth review of the evidence base for all proposed sites. The SAP's report can be found within the MCZ pages on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/protect/mpa/mcz/sap/

In line with the SAP's recommendations, DEFRA is currently commissioning the in-depth review into site proposals.

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether funding for improving the scientific evidence base for marine conservation zones will be distributed across all such zones where further evidence is required. [83094]

**Richard Benyon:** The review of the evidence base underpinning the recommendations of the four regional projects is expected to consider all site recommendations.

Discussions are underway between DEFRA and its delivery partners on the best approach to commissioning additional sea bed and habitat monitoring in English waters. This is to ensure we make the best use of additional funding to support marine conservation zone designation.

## National Parks: Public Consultation

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the review by National Park Authorities on arrangements for local governance to be completed. [84432]

**Richard Benyon:** I announced the Government's decisions on the review in a parliamentary written statement on 13 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 43WS.

### Rural Areas: Finance

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the £165 million funding for the rural economy that her Department announced on 29 November 2011 was additional to funding previously allocated to her Department by HM Treasury. [85895]

**Richard Benyon:** No additional funding has been allocated to DEFRA to finance the package of measures announced on 29 November 2011 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. However, DEFRA is using its existing resources efficiently in order to deliver a valuable boost to the rural economy. This includes redirecting £20 million of DEFRA's planned contributions to the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) to support Rural Growth Networks and the Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund; and the targeting of £100 million (previously unallocated) from the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 on supporting rural businesses. In addition, other Government Departments and public bodies, such as the Home Office (up to £2.3 million will support women-led businesses particularly in Rural Growth Networks) and Visit England (£12 million, including an element of its recent RGF award, will be used to support rural tourism) are contributing resources to the package.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much direct funding her Department provided to each civil society organisation it funded in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if she will make a statement. [74828]

**Richard Benyon:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Veterinary Laboratories Agency

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the site property valuations are of the regional veterinary laboratory centres in England and Wales. [87818]

**Mr Paice:** The existing use values as at 1 April 2010 of the regional veterinary laboratory centres in England and Wales are:

| *Location* | *Existing use value (£)* |
|---|---|
| Shrewsbury | 3,085,000 |
| Preston | 5,020,000 |
| Langford, Bristol | 905,000 |
| Exeter | 5,105,000 |
| Truro | 690,000 |
| Thirsk | 3,580,000 |
| Winchester | 3,350,000 |
| Newcastle | 2,195,000 |
| Bury St Edmunds | 3,510,000 |
| Luddington | 4,110,000 |
| Carmarthen | 2,060,000 |
| Aberystwyth | 820,000 |

*Notes:*

1. These figures are asset valuations prepared for resource accounting purposes. The majority of the properties are assessed on a depreciated replacement cost basis due to their specialist nature.

2. DEFRA does not currently hold open market valuations for these properties.

3. Where sites are shared, the value shown is for the entire site.

4, These figures exclude Sutton Bonington and Penrith which are both leasehold properties. The main central veterinary laboratory at Weybridge is also excluded as it is not classified as a regional laboratory.

### Water Charges

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to replace the use of rateable values in the calculation of bills for unmetered domestic water supply. [87871]

**Richard Benyon:** There are no plans to replace the use of rateable values in the calculation of bills for unmetered domestic water supply.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Big Lottery Fund

**Mr Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many applications for Big Lottery funding were made in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside and *(c)* the north-east in each of the last five years; and how many were (i) successful and (ii) unsuccessful. [87721]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

The figures requested are in the following tables:

*Jarrow constituency: Projects with a correspondence address within the constituency (figures exclude projects based elsewhere and serving this constituency)*

| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Awarded | 25 | 28 | 15 | 21 | 14 |
| Rejected | 32 | 38 | 33 | 28 | 15 |
| All | 57 | 66 | 48 | 49 | 29 |

[1] Figures for 2011 exclude the two applications received in the year that are still in assessment.

*South Tyneside: Projects with a correspondence address within the unitary authority (figures exclude projects based elsewhere and serving this unitary authority)*

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Awarded | 50 | 48 | 34 | 38 | 23 |
| Rejected | 60 | 65 | 62 | 53 | 35 |
| All | 110 | 113 | 96 | 91 | 58 |

[1] Figures for 2011 exclude the seven applications received in the year that are still in assessment.

*North-east region: Projects with a correspondence address within the unitary authority (figures exclude projects based elsewhere and serving this region)*

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Awarded | 708 | 695 | 567 | 426 | 469 |
| Rejected | 1031 | 966 | 926 | 891 | 798 |
| All | 1,739 | 1,661 | 1,493 | 1,317 | 1,267 |

[1] Figures for 2011 exclude the 109 applications received in the year that are still in assessment.

**Mr Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many applications for Big Lottery funding were made in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years; and how many were unsuccessful. [87722]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

A copy of the data requested will be placed in the Library of the House.

## Works of Art

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of unlisted and unprotected outdoor public works of art in England; and if he will make a statement; [88526]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities that have undertaken an audit of the public art outdoors in their area; and if he will make a statement. [88527]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, the lead body for our outdoor sculptural heritage, has received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations for their National Recording Project, which aims to make a survey of public monuments and sculpture across Britain. The database already includes more than 9,300 entries.

Many local authorities own and maintain public art outdoor works and organise their own records. This Department does not hold an estimate of the number of local authorities which have undertaken an audit.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 12 January 2012*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Former Members: Security

**John Mann:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many former hon. Members have passes to enter the Palace of Westminster. [88895]

**John Thurso:** On 11 January 2012 there were 358 ex-Member passes allowing access to the Palace of Westminster. These figures do not include former Members who are Peers or researchers for Members.

### Parliamentary Education Service

**John Mann:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many schools visited Parliament *(a)* in total and *(b)* from Nottinghamshire through the Parliamentary Education Service in 2011. [88894]

**John Thurso:** 946 schools visited Parliament through Parliament's Education Service in 2011, of which 12 were from Nottinghamshire.

The total number of students visiting Parliament on these visits was 39,972; of these, 371 were from Nottinghamshire.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Nature Conservation: Birds

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services, what steps she plans to take to prevent the extinction of breeding bird species in England. [88871]

**Richard Benyon:** 'Biodiversity 2020' sets out a wide range of actions over the next decade. The strategy entails a shift in emphasis towards a more effective, more integrated landscape-scale approach to conservation, exemplified by our Nature Improvement Areas initiative. It also commits to the development of a prioritised programme of targeted action for those priority species whose conservation is not delivered through wider habitat measures.

Work is under way on producing the first delivery plan for the strategy which will set out more detailed actions.

### Cod: EU Law

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she is taking to pause the implementation of European Council Regulation 1342/2008; [85819]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Prime Minister on *(a)* the implementation of European Council Regulation 1342/2008 and *(b)* the cod recovery programme; [85822]

(3) what recent steps have been taken at the European Council on *(a)* reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and *(b)* the cod recovery programme; [85820]

(4) what plans she has to meet with representatives of the fishing sector. [85821]

**Richard Benyon:** The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), meets regularly with the Prime Minister and updates him and Cabinet Office colleagues on important developments. As UK Fisheries Minister, I worked closely with Fisheries Ministers for Northern Ireland and Scotland to resolve the issues concerning implementation of the European Council Regulation 1342/2008, also known as the cod recovery plan.

I continue to meet and have discussions about *(a)* reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and *(b)* improvements to the cod recovery plan with a wide range of people and organisations. They include the EU Commission, Members of the UK and European Parliaments, ministerial colleagues of other member states and representatives of our fishing and related industries.

I met representatives of the Northern Ireland fisheries industry on 9 December 2011 and continued to meet with representatives from across the UK in the lead up to and during the annual fisheries negotiations at the December EU Fisheries Council, and my officials maintained close contact with industry representatives as discussions developed.

We have serious concerns about the way the cod recovery plan operates in practice and we have called for the existing plan to be revised as soon as possible. In the meantime UK fishermen were facing devastating reductions to the amount of time they could spend at sea catching their quota under this plan. The threatened reductions not only put in jeopardy the livelihoods of UK fishermen but would have also led to increased discards.

However, following three weeks of protracted discussions culminating in two days of intense negotiations, the Government successfully convinced the EU Commission that the UK approach to conservation was the right way forward. Fishermen in all affected member states will still face an expected reduction in the amount of time they are allowed to fish, but this concession from the Commission will allow the UK to develop more conservation measures and provide incentives for fishermen to take them up.

To ensure the future of cod in our seas, the Government will also build on their work with the fishing industry to adopt further measures to protect cod stocks and reduce discards. During the negotiations at Council, the

Government also successfully protected the fishing industry in Northern Ireland by securing the same quota of nephrops as last year.

### Giant Hogweed

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance she has issued to police forces to enable them to enforce section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in respect of giant hogweed; and if she will make a statement. [89036]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government have published guidance on section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for enforcement agencies, licensing authorities and other interested parties. The guidance covers all species including giant hogweed, to which section 14 applies, and is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/wildlife-countryside-act.pdf

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Olympic Games 2012

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which Ministers will attend the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games *(a)* in an official capacity and *(b)* as official guests of third parties. [88815]

**Hugh Robertson:** No final decisions have been made as to which Ministers will attend the opening ceremony. Any Minister that does attend the opening ceremony on behalf of Government will do so in an official capacity.

The Government are committed to publishing information about hospitality received by Ministers from third parties in a ministerial capacity, valued at over £140. For the Department for Culture, Media and Sport this information is published on a quarterly basis on the Department's transparency website:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/

### Tourism

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will provide funding for an additional traditional pier in Redcar and Cleveland for the purpose of promoting tourism. [88846]

**John Penrose:** No. The development of new piers is a matter for local businesses, working with local authorities and other partners as necessary. The Government do not provide funds specifically for this purpose.

## WALES

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in her private office have left her Department since May 2010; and what the turnover rate was for staff in her private office between May 2010 and May 2011. [86294]

**Mrs Gillan:** Changes to the private office have occurred primarily as a consequence of steps the Department has taken to provide a more efficient and effective service to Ministers, including merging what were previously two separately staffed private offices and the establishment of a common parliamentary team supporting the Wales Office, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office.

11 members of private office (which includes the correspondence unit and the parliamentary team) have left the Department since May 2010, with a turnover rate of 50% between May 2010 and May 2011.

Of the staff who have left the Wales Office, four have taken the opportunity for voluntary exit; three returned to the Welsh Government; two had come to the end of their fixed term appointments and two took lateral transfers.

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the staff turnover rate was in her Department in each of the last five years. [86295]

**Mr David Jones:** The levels of staff turnover are shown in the following table:

| | *Turnover rate (%)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 14 |
| 2007-08 | 26 |
| 2008-09 | 18 |
| 2009-10 | 15 |
| 2010-11 | 23 |

### Welsh Steel Industry

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Government on the steel industry in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [88108]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State for Wales, and I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues affecting Wales.

My right hon. Friend met with representatives from the steel industry in Wales with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), in March and held a meeting of her Business Advisory Group at the Tata Plant in Port Talbot in October, and she is due to meet with Tata again later this month. We continue to work closely with industry leaders in Wales to better understand the specific issues affecting the sector and to help ensure the long-term future of the steel industry in Wales.

### Mass Media

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Government on the future of the media in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [88107]

**Mr David Jones:** The Secretary of State for Wales has regular meetings with the First Minister to discuss a range of matters affecting Wales media issues.

I welcome the S4C and BBC Trust's announcement on 25 October 2011, which confirmed their agreement on the details of the partnership announced in the spending review and licence fee settlement. I would like to congratulate both parties for agreeing the details that have protected the editorial and managerial independence of S4C, while safeguarding the accountability of the BBC Trust for the licence fee.

The Government are also keen to ensure that the public have access to localised media, which is why we announced on 13 December that Cardiff and Swansea will be among the first 20 UK cities to trial the Local TV model, with Bangor and Mold included in a second tranche.

All media platforms in Wales, be it newspapers, radio, broadcasting or internet based, are important, which is why we are also undertaking a wide-scale review of the regulatory framework supporting the UK communications sector. The review will focus on establishing ways in which Government can drive growth and innovation in the sector by stripping away unnecessary red tape and removing barriers to growth.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Contracts: General Practitioners

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the British Medical Association on the devolution of GP work contracts to each of the devolved Administrations. [89016]

**Chris Grayling:** There have been no discussions between DWP and the British Medical Association on the devolution of GP work contracts to each of the devolved Administrations.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the devolution of GP work contracts to each of the devolved Administrations. [89017]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP has no plans in relation to the devolution of GP work contracts to each of the devolved Administrations.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the current system of negotiating GP work contracts. [89018]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP has not made any assessment of the current system of negotiating GP work contracts.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on GP work contracts. [89019]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP has not had any discussions with the devolved Administrations on GP work contracts.

### Remploy: Social Enterprises

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what consideration he has given to enabling individual Remploy factories to establish their own bank account for the purposes of trading as social enterprises; and if he will make a statement; [89095]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential development of a social enterprise model for Remploy factories; and if he will make a statement; [89097]

(3) what steps he has taken to assist Remploy factories to identify social enterprise opportunities; and if he will make a statement. [89099]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government consultation on the recommendations of the Sayce report, which included recommendations on the future strategy for Remploy, closed on 17 October 2011. Over 1,400 responses were received and it is taking time to analyse the consultation responses in detail and carefully consider the implications for future policy. During its consultation period a range of work is being done to consider the future for Remploy. We will publish a summary of responses received and a statement on future policy as soon as practicably possible. Until a decision is made, consideration will not been given to the detail of any arrangements that may need to be made, for example enabling factories to establish their own bank accounts for the purpose of trading. Prior to the consultation consideration has been given to The Social Enterprise Model.

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what processes he expects Remploy factories to follow in employing additional staff to fulfil a new contract; and if he will make a statement. [89098]

**Maria Miller:** To secure additional staff to fulfil a new contract, Remploy are required to request approval, from the Department for Work and Pensions to recruit externally. This is in line with the cross-Government external recruitment freeze arrangements.

In considering the request, the Department for Work and Pensions considers the merits of the case for recruitment including whether failure to recruit would seriously affect Remploy's customer service, performance or reputation. All requests are considered on the merit of each case.

### Social Security Benefits: Cardiff

**Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of recipients of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* employment and support allowance and *(c)* incapacity benefit in Cardiff West constituency whose claims have been refused have taken their case to tribunal since January 2011. [88808]

**Maria Miller:** We are unable to provide information of recipients on disability living allowance (DLA) in Cardiff West constituency whose claims have been refused and taken their case to tribunal. This is because we do not routinely report this level of detail and to obtain this would be at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Data on outcomes of assessments for employment and support allowance (ESA) is not available for the Cardiff West parliamentary constituency. However data is available for the Cardiff unitary authority area. Between January 2011 and May 2011 (the latest data available) there were approximately 6,100 people from the Cardiff unitary authority area who underwent an initial work capability assessment (WCA) for ESA. Of these approximately 3,800, or 62%, were assessed as being fit for work and therefore not eligible for ESA.

The equivalent information for incapacity benefit (IB) is not available since IB was replaced by ESA in October 2008 and any new claims received after this date were directed to claim ESA instead.

Data on the assessment outcomes of the incapacity benefits reassessment programme is not available. Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the process including the final outcomes is not yet available. Individual level data are being collected and the Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process once it has been fully quality assured.

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), who administer social security appeals do not hold any data specific to the Cardiff West constituency, but the majority of DLA, ESA and IB appeals made by people in the Cardiff West constituency are heard in the hearing venue in Cardiff, although this venue also hears appeals from other nearby locations.

The following table shows the number of appeals received in the Cardiff Tribunal venue for DLA, ESA, ESA (IB Reassessment) and IB from January 2011 to October 2011. The tribunal does not record the issue under appeal and, therefore, cannot isolate data relating to appeals on the basis of a claim for benefit having been refused.

Note that the figures in the following table cannot be used in combination with the figures on ESA provided above, since they relate to a different time period and do not cover claims from the same geographical area.

| *Appeal type* | *Number of cases received in HMCTS Cardiff venue January 2011 to October 2011* |
|---|---|
| DLA | 1,400 |
| ESA | 4,100 |
| ESA (IB Reassessment) | 120 |
| IB | 700 |
| All appeals | 7,700 |

*Notes:*
1. The Department regularly publishes data on ESA and WCA the latest publication can be found on the departmental website, here:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. Data on ESA assessments and outcomes are taken from administrative data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and assessment data provided by Atos Healthcare.
3. Appeals data are taken from HMCTS management information.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and percentages to the nearest percentage point.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Tax Arrears

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to support vulnerable people who are in council tax arrears. [78399]

**Grant Shapps:** Further to my answer to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby (Austin Mitchell), today (PQ 73962), and my answer to my hon. Friend today (PQ 76266), I intend to develop guidance to local authorities on the support they should be giving vulnerable people who are in council tax arrears—something which the last Administration failed to deliver.

Clearly, councils have an obligation to their local residents to collect council tax, as every penny of uncollected council tax effectively increases the tax burden on the law-abiding local residents who do pay their bills on time. Yet councils equally need to show compassion towards the vulnerable and recognise individual cases of hardship.

The use of bailiffs should also be a last resort, they should not be commissioned disproportionately and councils should take direct responsibility for ensuring they abide by acceptable practices.

I will now review this matter and report back to the House in due course.

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the recovery of council tax arrears. [76266]

**Grant Shapps:** In 1993, when council tax was being introduced, the Department of the Environment published Council Tax Practice Note Number 9 on recovery and enforcement, this is primarily technical guidance on prevailing legislation. It recommended that councils draw up a code of practice on the use of bailiffs. I am placing a copy in the Library of the House, as the document is not available online.

From time to time, my Department also publishes Council Tax Information Letters, providing technical updates relating to the administration of council tax. The last letter which touched on these issues was in 2009. These letters are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/counciltax/informationletters/

In 2004, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published "Council Tax Collection Good Practice Report", an operational research report aiming to collate sources and information on good practice for activities that contribute to council tax collection. This can be found online at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20081205143343/http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/goodprac.pdf

I would add that in June 2009, the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Local Government Association published a "Collection of council tax arrears good practice protocol".

http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/pdf-ct-protocol.pdf

In July 2009, the last Administration published "A Better deal for Consumers: Delivering Real Help now and Change for the Future" (Cm 7669). It stated:

> "We are considering the need to produce a new guidance document as an agreed statement of good collection practice for councils."

No such guidance was issued.

### Government Procurement Card

**Guy Opperman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will list each spending transaction on a Government Procurement

Card made by officials in his Department since April 2006; and if he will provide for each transaction the *(a)* amount, *(b)* supplier and *(c)* date. [76267]

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish details of expenditure below £500 by his Department on Government Procurement Cards. [78213]

**Robert Neill:** The details of every individual Government Procurement Card transaction from April 2006 until October 2011 have been deposited in the Library of the House. These include the *(a)* amount, *(b)* supplier, *(c)* date and (d) merchant category.

'Merchant category' is a broad description employed by the card issuing company to designate the business where the card was used not the type of product purchased. These spending data include updated figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 from those given in an earlier reply, which understated the total level of spend due to a coding discrepancy in the data extraction.

My Department has put a series of checks and balances to protect taxpayers' money, following the recommendations made by Sir Philip Green's report into Government efficiency. Steps include:

Routinely publishing all spending over £500 each month, as part our transparency agenda.

Cutting the number of card holders from 210 in May 2010 to just 33 in October 2011.

Taking steps to cancel the cash withdrawal facility on the card (apart from two business continuity users).

Introducing new internal checks and audit trails, from pre-approvals to requiring post-transaction reporting.

As a result of these changes, monthly expenditure on these cards has reduced by three-quarters, from an average of £27,000 a month over the last two years, to an average of just £6,400 a month. I would encourage local authority users of the cards to take similar steps to help generate savings for their taxpayers.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 483-84W, which provides all the transaction data from April 2004 to April 2006 under the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

## Homelessness: Offenders

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he is taking to reduce levels of *(a)* homelessness and *(b)* housing instability among former prisoners with mental health problems; [88082]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of homelessness and housing instability arising from former prisoners with mental health problems in 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost in 2012-13. [88543]

**Grant Shapps:** This Government are committed to tackling homelessness and has established a ministerial working group to tackle the complex underlying problems, including the link between homelessness, offending and mental health. We have already included clear statements on homelessness in the Offender Rehabilitation Green Paper[1] and the Drugs[2] and Mental Health Strategies[3].

In addition, the Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness' first report[4] includes a commitment to publish a more comprehensive expectations and guidance for prisons and for probation trusts on how to assist offenders to access stable housing. It also highlights the role of specialist services in treating homeless people, including those with a dual diagnosis of co-existing mental health problems and encouraging closer working between criminal justice agencies and homelessness organisations.

You may be aware that I recently announced a further £20 million funding for local authorities to prevent single homelessness and help them ensure that nobody is turned away without clear and useful advice when they are most in need. This is on top of the existing £400 million Government investment to prevent homelessness over the next four years and £12.25 million provided to Crisis to help single homeless people access stable accommodation in the private rented sector, with ex-offenders a priority group.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) recognises the significant costs to public services that results from homelessness and rough sleeping. For example, research commissioned by DCLG estimated that without housing support services, offenders, people at risk of offending and mentally disordered offenders would cost an additional £1,459 per household unit per annum from experiencing homelessness[5]. We have secured £6.5 billion investment for Supporting People over the four years of the spending review which will protect the preventative services that help the most vulnerable live independently and retain their tenancies.

DCLG has not made any estimate on the cost to the public purse of homelessness and housing instability arising from former prisoners with mental health problems in 2010-11 or likely cost in 2011-12.

[1] Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders, 2010

[2] Drug Strategy 2010, Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: supporting people to live a drug-free life

[3] No Health Without Mental Health, 2011

[4] Vision to end Rough Sleeping; No Second Night Out

[5] DCLG (2009) Research into the financial benefits of the Supporting People programme, 2009

## Population Growth

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance is offered by his Department to local authorities on estimating their population growth. [89022]

**Robert Neill:** No such guidance is given. Population statistics are published by the Office for National Statistics.

## TREASURY

## Civil Servants: Pensions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 17, Box 3.B case study 1 of Public service pensions: good pensions that last, Cm 8214, what the old scheme calculation in this example would be using the *(a)* Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme classic scheme, *(b)* PCSPS premium scheme and *(c)* NUVOS Scheme. [83237]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 25 November 2011]*: On 2 November 2011, the Government published 'Public service pensions: good pensions that last', Cm8214, which includes several case studies that provide illustrative examples of the impact of the Government's preferred pension scheme design. These case studies were prepared for HMT Treasury by Hyman Robertson LLP using IFS data and HM Treasury assumptions.

HM Treasury has not made an assessment of what the old scheme calculation would be in the example of Case Study 1 using the PCSPS premium scheme or the NUVOS scheme.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will arrange for the hon. Member for Walsall North to receive a reply to his letter of 22 November 2011 to the Child Benefit Office about a constituent. [87922]

**Mr Gauke:** Child Benefit Office replied to a letter from the hon. Member dated 22 November 2011 on 16 December 2011.

### Stamp Duty Land Tax: Avoidance

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce avoidance of stamp duty land tax. [89003]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will challenge all use of stamp duty land tax (SDLT) avoidance schemes, through the courts if necessary. All users of these schemes can expect to pay the full amount of SDLT due, plus interest, in due course.

HMRC has analysed a wide range of avoidance schemes. This analysis has not shown that the schemes are effective in reducing SDLT liability, either because they reflect an incorrect understanding of the law or because they are caught by targeted anti-avoidance rules..

HMRC will open an inquiry into an SDLT return in all cases where use of such a scheme is notified under the disclosure of tax avoidance schemes (DOTAS) rules. HMRC also compares transactions reported to the Land Registry against SDLT returns received. Where there is a discrepancy, HMRC will open an enquiry into the return, or issue an assessment of the SDLT due if no return has been received.

Recent Finance Acts have included a number of measures to put beyond doubt that particular avoidance schemes are ineffective. The draft 2012 Finance Bill, published on 6 December 2011, includes a measure to expand the scope of the DOTAS rules.

### Inheritance and Capital Gains Taxation

**John Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue has been raised in inheritance tax from Scottish estates in each year since 1998; [89104]

(2) how much has been claimed in business relief from inheritance tax in each year since 1986; [89105]

(3) how much was claimed in forgiveness of capital gains tax at death in each of the last five years; [89109]

(4) how much was claimed in spouse or civil partner exemption on gifts paid over a lifetime in each of the last five years; [89110]

(5) how much was paid in capital transfer tax in each year between 1982 and 1986. [89111]

**Mr Gauke:** Receipts of inheritance tax since 1998 are published in the Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland publications published on the Scottish Government's website:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Economy/GERS/Publications

The amounts of assets which are relieved from inheritance tax due to business property relief for estates over the inheritance tax threshold for 2004-05 to 2008-09 are published in National Statistics table 12.2 available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/inheritance_tax/table12-2.xls

Based on this table the amount of assets relieved since 1986-87 are given in the following table.

| | *Relief set against assets (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1986-87 | 28 |
| 1987-88 | 38 |
| 1988-89 | 37 |
| 1989-90 | 45 |
| 1990-91 | 35 |
| 1991-92 | 40 |
| 1992-93 | 96 |
| 1993-94 | 97 |
| 1994-95 | 113 |
| 1995-96 | 137 |
| 1996-97 | 150 |
| 1997-98 | 129 |
| 1998-99 | 177 |
| 1999-2000 | 353 |
| 2000-01 | 183 |
| 2001-02 | 240 |
| 2002-03 | 332 |
| 2003-04 | 227 |
| 2004-05 | 252 |
| 2005-06 | 295 |
| 2006-07 | 341 |
| 2007-08 | 460 |
| 2008-09 | 409 |

In addition, an estimate of the cost of business property relief is published by HMRC in Table 1.5 Main Tax Expenditures and Structural Reliefs available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.xls

An estimate of the cost of the exemption for capital gains tax accrued but unrealised at death is published by HMRC in Table 1.5 Main Tax Expenditures and Structural Reliefs available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.xls

Estimates of the historical costs of this relief are not available.

The information on spouse or civil partner relief on lifetime gifts is not available as these gifts do not need to be recorded on the inheritance tax return.

Receipts from capital transfer tax for the period 1982 to 1986 are published in archived Table 1.2 Annual Receipts of former Inland Revenue Taxes available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/1_2_v2_dec05.xls

### Taxation: Switzerland

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the likelihood of the yield from the UK-Switzerland tax agreement of 24 August 2011 being at the upper end of the estimated range. [88847]

**Mr Gauke:** The current forecast for the yield from the UK-Switzerland tax agreement is expected to be in the range £4 billion to £7 billion.

A range has been used in estimating the expected revenue to reflect the degree of uncertainty around the estimates. No estimate has been made within HMRC as to where within the range we would expect the actual yield to lie.

However, the Swiss banks will make an upfront payment of CHF 500 million at the outset of the arrangement, which supports the expectation that the revenue generated from the agreement will be significant.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Borders: Personal Records

**Mark Menzies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions officials in her Department have had with the Royal Yachting Association on the e-Borders programme. [88930]

**Damian Green:** Officials from the UK Border Agency last met with the Royal Yachting Association on 2 December 2011, to discuss and share progress on the e-Borders programme.

The UK Border Agency is working closely with the maritime community to strengthen the maritime border by building a way to electronically receive passenger and crew data on international journeys. This will maximise the UK Border Agency's intake of intelligence, optimise the use of resources and ensure the UK Border Agency is able to make effective, high value interventions on those who would seek to do harm to the UK.

### British Nationality

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward legislative proposals to revoke the British citizenship of naturalised British citizens convicted of *(a)* treason and *(b)* acts of terrorism. [88955]

**Damian Green:** There is already provision in the British Nationality Act 1981 (section 40 as amended) to deprive British citizens of their citizenship where the Secretary of State for the Home Department, is satisfied that to do so is conducive to the public good. The Act was amended in 2006 and statements were made to Parliament at the time explaining that the power would be available for use in cases including those involving national security and extremism.

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* those bodies for which her Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if she will make a statement. [88595]

**Damian Green:** Departments will work closely with Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and with Co-operatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

The Mutuals Taskforce has recently indicated it will play a co-ordinating role for Departments to support the International Year of Co-operatives, with Co-operatives UK leading the Taskforce's work in this area.

### Departmental Audit

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if she will make a statement. [85640]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office criteria for deciding on which internal audits to conduct are in line with Government Internal Audit Standards. These state that the Chief Internal Auditor must establish risk based plans. Development of these risk-based plans takes account of the Home Office corporate risk profile, assurance framework and forward business plans. They also reflect input from the Accounting Officer, Audit and Risk Assurance Committee members, Management Board members and previous audit activity and findings. A number of lower level reviews are also considered to ensure the completeness of the overall annual opinion.

Delivery is based on audit resource approved by the Accounting Officer and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. Internal audit work is based upon a cyclical planning horizon which can be amended if the risk profile changes in year. The plan, and individual reviews contained within it, require approval from the Accounting Officer and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and are subject to quarterly review to ensure the continued relevance of the plan and best use of resources. Individual reviews are prioritised on criticality to the Accounting Officer and any changes to the plan are agreed by the Chief Internal Auditor, the Accounting Officer and Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. A small number of audit days are allocated for consultancy, advice and contingency work.

### Detention: Women

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women detained for immigration purposes were subsequently *(a)* deported and *(b)* released in the last six months of 2011; and how many such women had been detained for more than (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) one year and (iv) two years. [88957]

**Damian Green:** The following table shows the latest published figures on the number of women leaving detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres or short term holding facilities in Q3 2011, by reason and length of detention.

*Females leaving detention by reason and length of detention, Q3 2011*

| | *Total female detainees* | *Removed from the UK* | *Granted leave to enter/remain* | *Granted temporary admission/release* | *Bailed* | *Other* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total females | 1,123 | 714 | 8 | 322 | 67 | 12 |
| *Length of detention* | | | | | | |
| Less than 3 months | 1,055 | 673 | 8 | 307 | 56 | 11 |
| 3 months to less than 6 months | 47 | 33 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 0 |
| 6 months to less than 12 months | 18 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 12 months to less than 24 months | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 months or more | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are provisional.
2. All people held are detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers and exclude those in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.
3. Figures include dependants.
4. Relates to most recent period of sole detention. The period of detention starts when a person first enters the UK Border Agency estate. If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of women leaving detention, solely under Immigration Act powers. Q4 2011 detention figures will be published on 23 February 2012 and will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics webpages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Detention is a necessary part of the process to remove some individuals with no right to be in the UK. We always seek to remove those with no right to be here as quickly as possible but if detainees give false or incomplete information or submits spurious last minute appeals, then in such cases, it can delay their return and extend their detention.

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when gender equality impact assessments for all immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities will be completed. [88956]

**Damian Green:** Gender equality impact assessments for immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities where women are held will be completed by summer 2012.

### Democracy: Diversity

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of progress in establishing a Democracy Diversity Fund to support disabled people who are parliamentary candidates as recommended in the Final Report of the Speaker's Conference on Parliamentary Representation; and if she will make a statement. [89222]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* This recommendation is being taken forward through the development of the Access to Elected Office for Disabled People Strategy. Last year, the Government held a public consultation which sought views on a range of policy proposals designed to provide additional support for disabled candidates applying for elected office to help them overcome disability related barriers.

The Government published their response in September 2011. Following the results of that consultation we are now working with political, disability and other stakeholders to take forward five proposals. These are: (i) setting up a dedicated fund to help individual candidates with disability related costs; (ii) new training and development opportunities; (iii) Raising awareness; (iv) guidance for political parties on fulfilling their legal obligations under the Equality Act; and (v) working with political parties to share and promote good practice on disability support.

### Drugs: Law Enforcement

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions officials in her Department have had with law enforcement agencies in other countries on co-operation on drug profiling. [88410]

**James Brokenshire:** Home Office officials have dialogue with officials and law enforcement agencies in other countries where that facilitates closer co-operation in countering narcotics, which may include drugs profiling. Within the EU, this co-operation is facilitated by a Joint Action (a form of EU legislative instrument) concerning the exchange of information on the chemical profiling of drugs, in order to facilitate improved co-operation between member states in combating illicit drug trafficking.

### Entry Clearances: China

**David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for tourist visas by Chinese nationals were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in the last year for which figures are available. [89039]

**Damian Green:** The table sets out the number of applications for tourist visas made by Chinese nationals that have been issued and refused from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011.

We are unable to provide information for a period that goes beyond the period covered by our published statistics. This information presents the latest statistics available on visa decisions.

*Nationality: Chinese*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Issued | 65,885 |
| Refused | 4,598 |

### Forensic Science: Co-operation

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions officials in her Department have had with law enforcement agencies in other countries on co-operation on forensic science. [88411]

**James Brokenshire:** Home Office officials have regular contact and collaboration with the following groups/countries, primarily in relation to fingerprint research and development but also on other areas of forensic science:

Germany—Bundeskriminalamt (BKA)

Italy—Carabinieri

Canada—Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

Israel—Israeli National Police Force

USA—Department of Homeland Security, Secret Service, National Institute of Justice

Netherlands—Netherlands Forensic Institute

Australia—Australian Federal Police.

Malaysian officials have made a VIP visit to the Home Office Centre for Applied Science and Technology but this has not yet led to any further collaboration.

Home Office officials also have contact with law enforcement agencies through a number of groups such as International Fingerprint Research Group (IFRG), European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FISWG) and Scientific Working Group for Imaging Technology (SWGIT).

Home Office have met representatives of the Abu Dhabi police to discuss the delivery of an existing FSS contract following the Government decision to wind down the Forensic Science Service.

Home Office officials have additionally been involved in a series of discussions with the EU institutions and key EU policing agencies on a vision of future forensic science and on the development of forensic science infrastructures in Europe.

Although not a Home Office official, the Forensic Science Regulator has liaised with organisations from a number of countries in developing quality standards in forensics including the Republic of Ireland, Australia, USA, European countries through the ENFSI Board as well as the devolved Administrations in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

### Heroin

**Gordon Birtwistle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many doctors have a licence from her Department to prescribe heroin for the treatment of drug addiction. [88128]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The Home Office does not licence the prescription of heroin for the treatment of addiction. Licenses to prescribe diamorphine for the treatment of addiction are issued by the Home Office; a total of 18 licences were issued to individual doctors in 2011.

### Immigration Controls

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff not cleared to SC level and deployed to work on border controls had access to the Warning Index on 30 November 2011; [86090]

(2) how many non-UK Border Agency employees who were re-deployed to cover the work of staff involved in industrial action on 29 and 30 November 2011 were not cleared to SC level; how many of these had applied for SC level clearance in advance of the training; and how many of these applications were processed. [86091]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 13 December 2011]:* All staff who were trained and deployed to ports and airports during the period of industrial action 29 and 30 November 2011 carried the appropriate level of security clearance that allowed them to operate safe and effective border checks. SC level is required only where staff need to have regular access to 'Secret' and 'Top Secret' assets. An appropriate security regime was in place on 30 November 2011, taking into account the risks being managed in ensuring border security on the day.

### Immigration: Employment

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to revise documents sent to people granted leave to remain to place more emphasis on employment opportunities. [89196]

**Damian Green:** There are no plans to revise these documents. The documents are specific in advising an individual about their conditions of leave in terms of employment.

### Olympic Games 2012 : Security

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff will be employed on security for the duration of the London 2012 Olympic Games from *(a)* private security contractors, *(b)* the Metropolitan police, *(c)* other police forces and *(d)* the armed services. [88882]

**James Brokenshire:** Up to 23,700 personnel will be deployed on venue security roles during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The majority will be private security staff provided by G4S. These contractors will be supported by military personnel and volunteers recruited by the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG). Together, they will help protect more than 100 competition and non-competition venues across the United Kingdom. All roles will be performed by people who are appropriately trained and qualified.

It is estimated that around 12,000 police officers will be deployed on Games-specific duties across the UK on peak days, including up to 9,000 in London alone. These will be a mixture of local officers and officers supplied through mutual aid, though the exact composition for each local area is still to be determined.

In total, up to 13,500 armed forces personnel will be deployed on Games security duties. This includes military support to the LOCOG venue security operation: 3,500 personnel throughout the Games period, rising to 7,500 personnel during the Olympic Games. Military personnel will also provide a range of specialist and other support to the police, and a reserve force in case of emergency.

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requirements have been placed on private security companies that have won contracts to provide security at the London 2012 Olympic Games to recruit staff from *(a)* Newham and *(b)* other Olympic boroughs in London. [88883]

**James Brokenshire:** The London 2012 Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) appointed G4S as its Official Security Services Provider in March 2011. As with all its main contractors, LOCOG's Employment and Skills Charter formed a central part of the procurement process. This included its target to recruit 15-20% of its Games work force from residents of the six host boroughs.

LOCOG are now working with G4S on how to contribute to this target. As a result, G4S is running daily recruitment events in Newham, at West Ham football club. Another centre will open in Stratford in the coming weeks. A series of recruitment events from LOCOG contractors are taking place across the host boroughs with partners such as the job brokerages, Jobcentre Plus, FE colleges and community groups such as The East London Communities Organisation (TELCO). Already more than 70 such events have taken place, with more to follow.

Six months before the Games, LOCOG is achieving its overall target—with 20.4% of its work force resident in the host boroughs.

### Police: Accountability

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure awareness of the method of election for police commissioners. [87388]

**Nick Herbert:** The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 gives the Electoral Commission a statutory duty to raise awareness of these elections, including how to vote in them, as it currently does for all UK elections. The Government are working closely with the Commission on this.

### Terrorism: Technology

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the role of Dart-MS technology in terrorism prevention and investigation. [88414]

**James Brokenshire:** There has been some work undertaken within Government laboratories into the potential of the Direct Analysis in Real Time Mass Spectrometry (DART-MS) technique in support of forensic work, such as the rapid identification of explosives. Initial studies were undertaken in 2005 but the technique was not sufficiently advanced at that stage. Further work (funded by the Home Office) is planned for 2012 into DART-MS and a number of related direct analysis techniques. This would give a detailed assessment of the value of the technique for counter-terrorism work.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Child Care

6. **Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the effect of Government policies on access to child care for women. [88216]

**Maria Miller:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

Providing help with the costs of formal child care, and improving access, continues to be at the forefront of our policies to help children get the best start in life and to ensure that parents can balance work and family commitments.

The Government spend £2 billion on formal child care support within the current tax credit and benefit systems and it has committed an additional £300 million under universal credit.

### Domestic Violence

7. **Sarah Newton:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent representations she has received on male victims of domestic violence. [88217]

**Lynne Featherstone:** I met with my hon. Friend and the charity Esteem, which provides services to male victims of domestic violence in Cornwall, in October last year. I will be visiting the Men's Advice Line shortly.

In December, I announced funding of £225,000 to support services focusing on male victims of domestic and sexual violence over two years. This is in addition to the funding provided to the helplines: Men's Advice Line and Broken Rainbow.

### Flexible Working

8. **Alun Cairns:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she is taking to encourage flexible work arrangements and home working. [88218]

**Mrs May:** We have consulted on proposals to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees, which could include working from home. We will respond to that consultation in due course.

Jobcentre Plus also support employers in considering how jobs can be advertised on a flexible basis and we are working with businesses to identify what more can be done on a voluntary basis to encourage flexible working opportunities.

### Business Enterprise: Women

9. **Fiona Bruce:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she is taking to encourage the participation of women in business enterprise. [88219]

**Mrs May:** It is vital that women are able to fully use their skills in order to support economic growth. That is why we are providing up to £2 million over three years in order to support women setting up or growing their business in rural areas. The Government are also recruiting and training 5,000 mentors to support women setting up or growing their business. The funding will ensure that training and support for both mentor and mentee reflect the specific needs of women.

### Apprentices

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many apprentices are working in the Government Equalities Office. [88220]

**Lynne Featherstone:** As of 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office has been part of the Home Office. The Department takes seriously the need to create opportunities for apprenticeships. However, due to the recruitment freeze in the civil service since May 2010, there has been limited opportunity to employ apprentices. One member of staff has been directly recruited as an apprentice to the Home Office before the freeze took effect, and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission has employed three apprentices. We will look to introduce schemes when the freeze ends.

## TRANSPORT

### High Speed 2

16. **Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to revise the timetable for the publication of the route for High Speed 2 between Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds. [88237]

**Justine Greening:** HS2 Ltd will be providing me with advice on route options for Phase 2 of HS2 in March 2012. We will then undertake a process of engagement to inform the selection of a preferred route. The Department's business plan foresees a decision being made by Ministers on the preferred route by December 2014, following consultation. However, we will keep this timetable under review with a view to moving as fast as practicable to ensure we deliver the benefits of the Y network.

### Speed Limits

17. **Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations her Department has received on the consultation on increasing motorway speed limits. [88239]

**Mike Penning:** The Department has received several hundred items of correspondence about changing motorway speed limits during the last three months.

The Government announced in October that they intended to consult about increasing the national motorway speed limit for England and Wales. The consultation is planned to start during the next few months.

### Crossrail

18. **Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the financing of the Crossrail project; and if she will make a statement. [88240]

**Mrs Villiers:** Ministers regularly discuss a variety of Crossrail matters, including financing, with senior management at Crossrail Ltd and with the project's co-sponsor, the Mayor of London. The funding package for Crossrail was agreed as part of the spending review, and we expect the project to cost no more than £14.5 billion.

**Margaret Beckett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account her Department took of the Government's review of procurement in preparing the tender for the Crossrail scheme. [88355]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* Crossrail Ltd is delivering the procurement of Crossrail rolling stock and depot on behalf of Rail for London—the future operator of Crossrail services. The co-sponsors of the project, Transport for London and the Department for Transport, have agreed that any relevant conclusions of the Government's review of public procurement will be taken into account in the tender process. As announced in August 2011, we expect the tender documents to be released early this year.

### Insurance Companies

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Ministers in her Department have had recent meetings with *(a)* members of the board and *(b)* senior management at (i) Broker Direct and (ii) Zurich UK. [89112]

**Norman Baker:** Neither the Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), nor any other Ministers in the Department have had any recent meetings with members of the board and/or senior management at Broker Direct or Zurich UK.

### Railway Stations: Manpower

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 422W, on railway stations: manpower, what discussions *(a)* she, *(b)* her predecessor and *(c)* her officials have had with the Chair of the Rail Value for Money Study on the calculations used to reach the recommendations in the report of the Rail Value for Money Study on (i) ticket office opening hours, (ii) ticket office staffing and (iii) the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement. [88127]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* Ministers and officials met with Sir Roy McNulty and his team regularly over the course of the Rail Value for Money Study to discuss a wide range of issues.

The conclusions of the independent study, together with the detailed supporting material, can be found on the websites of the Department and the Office of Rail Regulation.

The Department is now considering the findings of the study and will shortly be publishing a Command Paper setting out a strategy for improving the efficiency and performance of the railway network.

### Railways: Disability

**Richard Graham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to improve disabled access at railway stations. [88230]

**Norman Baker:** The Access for All programme will deliver accessible routes to 153 stations before 2015 and a further £7 million a year is available to train operators to use for smaller access enhancements. We have also recently introduced a new Mid-Tier programme worth £37.5 million to fund projects needing up to £1 million of Government support.

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Association of Train Operating Companies on eligibility for disabled persons railcards following changes to disability living allowance. [88881]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) review of social security benefits is still ongoing, and is expected to be completed in 2012. DWP will be introducing personal independence payments (PIP) to replace disability living allowance (DLA) in 2013. Once the new eligibility criteria have been confirmed, ATOC will work with Disability Rights UK, the Department for Transport and other key stakeholders to evaluate the required revisions to the Disabled Person's Railcard eligibility criteria. Implementation will be timed to coincide with the introduction of PIP.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to increase access to train services for disabled people *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Coventry. [88898]

**Norman Baker:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* We are committed to improving access to rail stations and we have therefore continued the previous Government's Access for All programme, which will deliver accessible routes to 153 stations before 2015. £7 million a year is available for smaller access enhancements and a new Mid-Tier programme worth £37.5 million was recently introduced.

*(b)* All three stations in Coventry (Canley, Coventry and Tile Hill) have step-free access.

### Stratford International Station

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what works are required to enable Stratford International Station to receive international trains; and what the cost is of such works. [88186]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The outer two platforms of Stratford International Station are already designed to take international trains.

The main work required to commence an international service would be the provision of border control and security facilities, along with ticket office fit-out and gate lines for the train operator and associated telecommunications and IT.

Although no detailed costings have been undertaken, it is estimated that the total value of work should not exceed £2 million.

## JUSTICE

### Approved Premises: Female Offenders

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation trusts have approved premises for female offenders. [89197]

**Mr Blunt:** Six probation trust areas have approved premises for female offenders. Three are operated by the trusts themselves and three by independent bodies.

### Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992

**Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he has provided to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* magistrates' courts on assessing costs reasonably incurred under the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992; whether local authorities are permitted to accrue revenue from such costs; and if he will make a statement. [73962]

**Grant Shapps:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Ministry of Justice and the Department for Communities and Local Government have issued no guidance to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* magistrates courts on assessing costs reasonably incurred under the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992. What is reasonable in a particular case is a matter for the magistrates court to determine following submissions by the billing authority.

Schedule 5 to the Regulations sets out the sums an authority may charge where goods are seized to satisfy a council tax liability order. An authority may only charge the amounts stated in that Schedule, which may be a fixed amount or be limited to the reasonable costs and fees incurred, depending upon the matter in relation to which costs are incurred.

If a taxpayer believes charges made under Schedule 5 are incorrect, he should, in the first instance, contact the local authority or the Local Government Ombudsman.

There may also be scope for the district auditor to consider whether the local authority has proper arrangements in place to review, approve and pay bailiff fees, if complaints are brought to its attention.

I also note the 1993 Department of the Environment Council Tax Practice Note 9 states that:

"while it is likely that authorities will have discussed a scale of fees with the Clerk to Justices it should be recognised that the Court may wish to be satisfied that the amount claimed by way of costs in any individual case is no more than that reasonably incurred by the authority" (p. 8).

I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

I am aware of recent press reports that suggest (a) some local authorities are over-charging council tax debtors for the issuing of summonses and liability orders, over and above what is reasonable, (b) unacceptable practices by private firms of bailiffs collecting unpaid council tax on councils! behalf and (c) councils receiving commission payments for the use of bailiffs.

I also note the concerns raised on 15 September 2011, *Official Report,* column 1206, by my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow East (Bob Blackman).

I will now review what action can be taken to address this public concern, and will make a further statement in due course.

The Government have also committed in the coalition agreement to:

"provide more protection against aggressive bailiffs and unreasonable charging orders".

### Crime: Victims

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many victims of crime there were in each year between 1997 and 2010. [87335]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Home Department.

There are two sources of data collected by the Home Office namely the British Crime Survey (BCS) and the police recorded crime statistics. However, neither source provides a full picture of the extent of crime.

The available information relates to BCS incidents of crime and the number of offences recorded by the police and is given in tables 2.01 and 2.04 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2010/11'.

### Human Rights and Business Claims

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 862-3W, on Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill 2010-12, whether unnecessary and avoidable international business and human rights claims have progressed to court. [89113]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Government do not hold data on the number or detail of such claims, and whether they progress to court or settle.

### Legal Opinion

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants dismissed their legal teams during a trial in the Crown court in each year from 2000 to 2011. [89023]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice holds statistical information in relation to the status and changes to the legal representation of a defendant during their trial in the Crown court. However, the central administrative databases for courts do not store information on the reason for changes in legal representative or their legal representation status. As such, the information requested can be obtained only through the manual inspection of individual case files held by the courts at disproportionate cost.

Statistics are published on the representation status of each defendant England and Wales where it has been recorded, in the Ministry of Justice's statistical bulletin 'Judicial and Court Statistics', the most recent edition of which was published on 30 June 2011. The number of defendants and their representation status can be found in table 11.5. The report is available on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-annual.htm

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices: East Midlands

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women enrolled on apprenticeships in (i) information and communication technology and (ii) engineering and manufacturing technology in (A) the East Midlands, (B) Leicester South constituency and (C) Leicester City constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; [87658]

(2) how many people aged from 16 to 24 years participated in a modern apprenticeship scheme in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* Leicester City in 2010-11. [87659]

**Mr Hayes:** Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by gender in information and communication technology, engineering and manufacturing technologies and all sector subject areas in the East Midlands region, Leicester local authority and Leicester South parliamentary constituency, in the 2010/11 academic year, based on provisional data. Data for Leicester local authority have been provided as there is not a parliamentary constituency for Leicester City. Data are based on the home postcode of the learner.

*Table 1: Apprenticeship starts by gender and sector subject area in Leicester South parliamentary constituency, Leicester local authority and the East Midlands, 2010/11*[1]

| | *Information and communication technology* | *Engineering and manufacturing technologies* | *All apprenticeships* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Leicester South constituency* | | | |
| Female | 10 | 10 | 340 |
| Male | 50 | 80 | 380 |
| Total | 60 | 80 | 710 |
| *Leicester local authority* | | | |
| Female | 40 | 20 | 1,180 |
| Male | 120 | 300 | 1,210 |
| Total | 160 | 320 | 2,400 |
| *East Midlands region* | | | |
| Female | 280 | 370 | 22,180 |
| Male | 710 | 4,180 | 17,200 |
| Total | 1,000 | 4,550 | 39,380 |

[1] Provisional data.

*Notes:*

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Total figures may not add up due to rounding.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record.

Table 2 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by age in the East Midlands region and Leicester local authority, in the 2010/11 academic year, based on provisional data. Data are based on the home postcode of the learner.

*Table 2: Apprenticeship starts by age in Leicester local authority and the East Midlands, 2010/11*[1]

| | *16-24* | *25+* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Leicester local authority | 1,280 | 1,120 | 2,400 |
| East Midlands region | 23,480 | 15,900 | 39,380 |

[1] Provisional data.

*Notes:*

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Total figures may not add up due to rounding.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
3. Age is based on age at the start of the programme.
4. A small number of learners aged under 16 are included.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on apprenticeship starts by geographic breakdown, gender and sector subject areas are available in the SFR Supplementary Tables:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/Apprenticeship_sfr_supplementary_tables/

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which employers offer modern apprenticeships in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* Leicester City. [87698]

**Mr Hayes:** I have made available in the Libraries of the House tables regarding employers which offer modern apprenticeships in *(a)* East Midlands and *(b)* Leicester City. Tables 3a and 3b show a list of all companies offering one or more apprenticeship vacancies as at 21 December 2011 in the East Midlands region and Leicester City ward. Please note December is not a typical month for vacancies.

Tables 4a and 4b show a list of all of the providers funded for apprenticeships in the East Midlands region and Leicester local authority based on the providers' postcode.

### Apprentices: Industrial Health and Safety

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 846W, on apprenticeships, which health and safety requirements he intends to remove. [89114]

**Mr Hayes:** We have removed all Skills Funding Agency health and safety requirements relating to apprenticeships that go beyond what health and safety legislation requires.

### Construction Industry Training Board: Finance

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department allocated to the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; how many full-time equivalent staff worked for the CITB in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [87910]

**Mr Hayes:** The CITB do not receive any funding from the Department. They raise funds through a levy on employers in the construction industry. The levy depends on the continued consent of employers and is periodically debated in Parliament.

CITB-Construction Skills is also the sector skills council (SSC) for the construction industry. As an SSC they receive some funding through contract from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. In 2010-11 Construction Skills received £2,035,292 and in 2011-12 expect to receive £1,902,998. This is the total strategic funding, including sums received for National Occupational Standards and qualifications.

CITB had 1,389 full-time equivalent staff as at 31 December 2010. The current full-time equivalent staff figure, as at 30 November 2011, is 1,295.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013; [88701]

(2) how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88702]

**Mr Hayes:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has a large network of partner organisations of different types: executive, advisory and tribunal non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), agencies, public corporations, and non-ministerial departments. Some 80% of the Department's resources pass through these organisations, so they are vital to delivering our objectives.

### Employment Tribunal Service

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that employers and employees are aware of changes to the Employment Tribunal system. [89012]

**Mr Davey:** We will ensure that changes to the employment tribunal system are notified to employers and employees, through the usual channels, after they have completed the relevant parliamentary processes. We will continue to work with stakeholders, including representative bodies, to support the circulation of relevant guidance and information.

### Further and Higher Education

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to amend the process by which further education colleges validate their own higher education qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [88303]

**Mr Hayes:** Our plans for Higher Education are laid out in the White Paper, "Students at the Heart of the System", published June 2011, and have been the subject of a technical consultation, "A New Regulatory Framework" published in August 2011. The proposals that we have set out therein include a review of the criteria and process by which higher and further education institutions apply for degree awarding powers, in order to create a simpler and more transparent system that allows for greater diversity of provision.

The Government response to the White Paper and consultation responses will be published in early 2012.

We have also committed to reviewing Foundation degree awarding powers in 2012 and will consider whether any changes are needed in the context of that review.

### Higher Education Courses

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what procedure is in place for the approval of courses of higher education as designated courses. [86033]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 14 December 2011]*: Eligible higher education courses provided by publicly funded institutions in the UK are automatically designated under the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2009, as amended. Eligible courses delivered at privately funded institutions may be specifically designated on a course by course basis for the purposes of student support at the discretion of the Secretary of State.

Privately funded institutions that wish to have a course specifically designated apply to the Student Loans Company (SLC). Applications are assessed by the SLC against the course designation criteria in the Education (Student Support) Regulations which include course type, duration and mode of study. In addition all courses must be validated by a recognised UK awarding body such as a university. This provides quality assurance. The SLC then makes a recommendation to BIS on whether to designate courses or not.

BIS undertakes further checks on organisations that are applying for specific designation for the first time. These include consideration of the management, governance, and financial stability of the organisation. If the Department is satisfied that the course meets the course eligibility criteria; and that the provider does not pose a risk to the use of public funds; the course may be specifically designated.

### Higher Education: North East

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications had been made by residents in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* the North East in the 2011-12 admissions cycle by 19 December 2011; and how many such applications had been submitted by 19 December 2010 in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [89006]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest information is in the tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

UCAS have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

*All applicants to UCAS as at 19 December by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | Application cycle | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11*[1] | *2011-12*[2] |
| Hartlepool constituency | 536 | 407 |
| The Tees Valley | 3,205 | 2,772 |
| North East | 11,284 | 10,103 |

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.

[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

*On time applicants to courses with an 15 October deadline*[1] *by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | Application cycle | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11*[2] | *2011-12*[3] |
| Hartlepool constituency | 35 | 31 |
| Tees Valley[4] | 240 | 217 |

*On time applicants to courses with an 15 October deadline[1] by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | Application cycle | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11[2]* | *2011-12[3]* |
| North East | 1,131 | 1,073 |

[1] These are courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and courses at Oxbridge.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.
[4] Revised figures. These correct the figures provided in PQs 84160 and 84356 (254 for 2010-11 and 227 for 2011-12). The figures for the Tees Valley include the constituencies of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar, Stockton North, Stockton South, Darlington, and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland.

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications had been submitted by residents of *(a)* Stockton North constituency, *(b)* the borough of Stockton-on-Tees, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* the north-east in the 2011-12 admissions cycle by 19 December 2011; and how many such applications had been submitted by 19 December 2010 in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [89015]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest information is in the following tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

UCAS have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

*All applicants to UCAS as at 19 December by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | Application cycle | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11[1]* | *2011-12[2]* |
| Stockton North constituency | 465 | 357 |
| The borough of Stockton-on-Tees | 1,051 | 904 |
| Tees Valley | 3,205 | 2,772 |
| North-east | 11,284 | 10,103 |

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

*On time applicants to courses with an 15 October deadline[1] by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | Application cycle | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11[2]* | *2011-12[3]* |
| Stockton North constituency | 32 | 27 |
| The borough of Stockton-on-Tees | 85 | 84 |
| Tees Valley[4] | 240 | 217 |

*On time applicants to courses with an 15 October deadline[1] by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | Application cycle | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11[2]* | *2011-12[3]* |
| North-east | 1,131 | 1,073 |

[1] These are courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and courses at Oxbridge.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.
[4] Revised figures. These correct the figures provided in PQ 84356 (254 for 2010-11 and 227 for 2011-120). The figures for the Tees Valley include the constituencies of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar, Stockton North, Stockton South, Darlington, and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland.

## Insolvency

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when insolvency figures for 2010 will be published; and if he will make a statement. [89021]

**Mr Davey:** A statistical release showing insolvency figures for 2010 was published on 4 February 2011, and is available at:

http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/201102/index.htm

Time series data for all insolvency procedures, from 2001 to Q3 2011 are available at:

http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/201111/alltables.xls

## Minimum Wage: EU Countries

**Mr Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the minimum wage in each EU country in *(a)* the local currency of that country and *(b)* pounds sterling in purchasing power parity terms. [89020]

**Mr Davey:** Information about minimum wage levels in other countries, including EU member states, is contained in Appendix 3 of the Low Pay Commission's 2011 report at:

http://www.lowpay.gov.uk/

## Music: Licensing Laws

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to reduce the administrative burden on small businesses associated with the requirement to hold a public performance licence for playing music. [88408]

**Mr Davey:** The Government are in regular contact with the music collecting societies and encourages them to license in a manner which reduces the administrative burden for small businesses. The functions of collecting societies are not regulated by the Government at present. However, the Government accepted a recommendation made by Professor Ian Hargreaves, in his independent review of Intellectual Property and Growth, that collecting societies be regulated through codes of conduct that enshrine minimum standards of fairness and which govern their relations with licensees. The Government are currently consulting on the implementation of this recommendation.

**Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to inform small businesses of the need to obtain a public performance licence for playing music. [88409]

**Mr Davey:** The collection of royalties in respect of public performance licences is undertaken by collecting societies. These are private commercial organisations, and the primary responsibility for raising awareness of their activities rests with them. However, the Government aims assist by providing the relevant information through the Intellectual Property Office website and public information helpline, and by encouraging collecting societies to work with organisations which represent the interests of small businesses.

### Qualifications

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to assess the operation of organisations which deliver degree programmes overseas who are applying for degree awarding powers in the UK. [86758]

**Mr Willetts:** In the BIS Technical Consultation "A new fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for the higher education sector"[1] we sought views as to whether, when considering applications for degree awarding powers, the track record criterion could be applied more flexibly including, for example, when considering applications from organisations whose track record relates to teaching overseas. We are currently analysing the responses to the consultation and will publish the Government's response in due course.

[1] The Technical Consultation closed on 27 October and can be found at "A new fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for the higher education sector"

### Student Loans

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many borrowers in the student loans scheme were *(a)* making repayments and *(b)* not earning enough to make repayments at the end of the 2010-11 financial year. [89005]

**Mr Willetts:** The repayment status of borrowers who take out Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) loans is published by the Student Loans Company (SLC) in the Official Statistics release 'Income Contingent Repayments by Repayment Cohort and Tax Year'.

The most recent release was published in June 2011 and refers to financial year 2010-11:

http://www.slc.co.uk/media/77960/SLCOSP022011.pdf

The publication contains a breakdown of the repayment status of all ICR borrowers which can be found in table 1(i).

### TICC Skill Centres: Redundancy

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 159W, and with reference to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1077W, on TICC Skill Centres: redundancy, whether any employees who were made redundant did not receive ex-gratia payments. [88700]

**Mr Davey:** It is now more than 20 years since the company went into liquidation and there are no known records of any redundant TICC Ltd employees who did not receive ex-gratia payments. A search of all the remaining documents to find any records of redundant TICC Ltd employees who did not receive ex-gratia payments could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost with no certainty of finding any such records (if any previously existed).

I regret that there was an administrative error in my reply to the hon. Member's previous question of 21 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 159W. The correct answer should have read:

> "I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw) on 29 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1077W and to the then Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Pat McFadden), on 16 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1428W and 6 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 292W".

## HEALTH

### Cancer Services

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that patients diagnosed with rare cancers are able to access written information about their illness; [89010]

(2) which primary care trusts provide written information to patients diagnosed with *(a)* small bowel cancer and *(b)* other rare cancers. [89011]

**Paul Burstow:** Providing accurate, tailored, timely and accessible information is key to improving patient experience. To ensure that all cancer patients, including those with rare cancers, are able to access written information about their illness, the National Cancer Action Team is working in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support and Cancer Research UK to support the use of information prescriptions (IPs) across the cancer care pathways. IPs can: help patients to understand their diagnosis and treatment; provide signposts to further sources of advice and support, such as local patient groups and self-management programmes; and provide information on access benefits and social care services.

The National Cancer Patient Experience Survey, published in December 2010, recorded the responses of over 60,000 cancer patients across 158 trusts in England to a wide range of questions. These questions included those concerning the provision of written information.

The survey grouped patients into one of 12 categories that covered the more common tumour sites. Patients whose cancer could not be classified within these, such as those who had a rarer cancer, were placed into a category designated as 'other'. While small bowel cancer was not included as a specific category, bowel cancer was. In the following table are the results for patients with bowel cancer, other cancers, and for all cancers.

| *Question: Given easy-to-understand written information about cancer diagnosis* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Bowel cancer | 65 |
| Other cancers | 41 |
| All cancers | 66 |

In order to incentivise quality improvements in patient treatment, care and experience, all trusts that took part in the survey were sent a bespoke report showing their own results. Each report displayed the results for each question, in the survey benchmarked against other trusts. We are conducting a 2011 survey for publication in summer 2012 and will be looking closely to see where improvements have been made and where more work needs to be done. Both national and trust level reports can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_122516

### General Practitioners: Pharmacy

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he plans to have with the Dispensing Doctors' Association and General Practitioners Committee on the conclusions of the Cost of Service Inquiry for Dispensing Practices. [89000]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Negotiations on general practitioners contractual matters, including payments to dispensing doctors relating to dispensing medicines to their patients, are ongoing. These negotiations are conducted between the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association and NHS Employers on behalf of the national health service.

### General Practitioners: Waiting Lists

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the average waiting time to see a GP *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region; and if he will make a statement. [88694]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The GP Patient Survey asks patients about their experiences of general practitioner (GP) services. The latest national and primary care trust (PCT) level results were published on 15 December 2011 (practice specific level data will not be available until June 2012 when full year results will be published). Nationally, results relating to GP appointments are as follows:

88% of patients were able to get an appointment at their GP surgery last time they tried, although 12% of patients did have to call back nearer to the time;

93% of patients say their appointments are convenient; and

79% rate their experience of making an appointment as good.

Results at PCT level can be found on the GP Patient Survey website:

www.gp-patient.co.uk/results/

### Health Services: Disabled Children

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that disabled children are able to access the health services that they require. [89009]

**Anne Milton:** The Government are committed to improving the lives of children and young people who are disabled and providing more support for their families and carers. This is reflected in this year's Operating Framework, where we identify disabled children as a specific group that the national health service should pay particular attention to when commissioning and providing services.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS and public health reforms will also provide a significant opportunity to improve the range and quality of services available to children and young people with disabilities and complex needs. The role of health and well-being boards, which will include local authority directors of children's services as a core member, will play a key role in examining the health needs of their local population, including children and young people, and designing a joint health and well-being strategy to meet those needs.

This strategy will also be informed by local people—again including all children and young people—through the local HealthWatch. Again, HealthWatch will be a member of each health and well-being board, well positioned to ensure the strategy properly reflects the needs of the local population.

Our reforms propose that clinical commissioning groups and local authorities' commissioning plans should be informed by the local joint health and well-being strategy—including services for children and young people.

In addition, many of the indicators within the NHS and Public Health Outcomes Frameworks, either directly or indirectly require improvements in services for all children and young people.

The Department of Health also worked closely with the Department for Education in the development of the Government's Green Paper 'Support and Aspiration—A new approach to SEN', published in March 2011. As part of testing the proposals in the Green Paper, 20 pathfinders covering 31 local authorities and primary care trust clusters have been appointed to test the ambition of the proposals. This includes testing various elements to improve the lives of children and young people with disabilities and their families, including a new single assessment process with a single education, health and care plan to support access to services. The option of a personal budget will help children, young people and their parents to have more choice and control over the care they receive. The pilots will run initially for 18 months.

### Health Services: Coventry

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the costs of NHS reorganisation in Coventry South constituency. [88693]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The impact assessment published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill in January and republished when, the Bill was introduced into the House of Lords in September, estimated the cost of national health service modernisation to be £1.2 billion to £1.3 billion. This upfront cost will be more than recouped as a result of associated cost-savings by the end of 2012-13. The gross savings are estimated at £4.5 billion and the net saving from modernisation will be £3.2 billion to £3.3. billion over the lifetime of this Parliament, and £1.5 billion per year from 2014-15 onwards.

The Department has not estimated a regional breakdown of costs, as this would depend on local decisions.

Copies of both impact assessments have been placed in the Library.

### Health Services: EU Countries

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what payments have been made to other EU member states for the treatment of British citizens in each of the last three financial years; [88931]

(2) what payments have been received from other EU member states for the treatment by the NHS of EU citizens in each of the last three financial years. [88947]

**Anne Milton:** European economic area (EEA) medical cost payments to and from the United Kingdom are shown in the following table. The payments include health costs for temporary visitors using the European Health Insurance Card; workers posted to work in another member state by their employer; state funded treatment from one member state to another and health costs for state pensioners.

The majority of the payments made by the UK relate to health costs for state pensioners; far more UK state pensioners retire abroad than pensioners from abroad retire here, this explains the large variation between what the UK pays out, and what it receives.

*EEA health care payments to and from the United Kingdom*

£

| | *Payments made by the United Kingdom* | *Payments received by the United Kingdom* |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 451,300,000 | 33,100,000 |
| 2009-10 | 817,700,000 | 40,500,000 |
| 2010-11 | 451,600,000 | 51,700,000 |

*Notes:*

1. Claims are made and paid in the currency of the claiming member state. Totals shown for payments to member states are £ equivalent totals based on exchange rates at the time of payment.

2. Claims are made in arrears, sometimes several years in arrears. Payments made in any one year will therefore relate to claims for previous years, and do not reflect the value of claims made or received in that year. Payment totals may vary significantly due to variations in the timing of payments made or received for different countries and different claims.

### Influenza: Vaccination

**Andy Burnham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the level of uptake of the influenza vaccination offered by the NHS since September 2011. [89004]

**Anne Milton:** The latest provisional influenza vaccine uptake figures published on 5 January 2011 show that for general practitioner patients:

73% aged 65 years or over have had the vaccine;

50% under the age of 65 years in at risk groups have had the vaccine; and

26% of pregnant women have had the vaccine this year.

At 30 November 2011, provisional influenza vaccine uptake in front-line health care workers was. 40%.

### Plastic Surgery

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in the devolved Administrations on the treatment of women with breast implants manufactured by Poly Implant Prothèse. [89002]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Ministers and officials have regular discussions about a range of issues with their counterparts in the devolved Administrations. In addition, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) routinely share with officials in the devolved Administrations all advice to Ministers on issues relating to the safety of medicines and medical devices. Recent discussions and communications have included those relating to breast implants manufactured by Poly Implant Prothèse.

## DEFENCE

### Accommodation

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 63WS, on Accommodation, how many *(a)* employees of his Department and *(b)* armed forces personnel will (i) have their wages reduced and (ii) be made redundant as a result of the new tri-service policy on the provision of domestic assistance and official hospitality. [86960]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* Service personnel who were previously assigned to an official service residence and who are no longer required in that role, will be reassigned to other duties. Civilian personnel hourly pay will not be reduced, but we are working closely with contractors to ensure, where we can, that when the number of hours worked in a residence has been reduced, individuals affected are able to undertake other domestic duties within the terms of the multi-activity contract. Any redundancies arising from this change would be a decision for the relevant contractor.

### Aircraft Carriers

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the interoperability of the F35C's arresting hook system with aircraft carrier-based arresting gear; and if he will make a statement. [87785]

**Peter Luff:** Investigations have been and will continue to be made to ensure that the advanced arrestor gear (AAG) that is being installed on the aircraft carrier will be fully compatible with the Joint Combat Aircraft. The US has invested significant resource in AAG technology and is wholly committed to its successful implementation.

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were deployed on ceremonial duties *(a)* in London and *(b)* around the world in 2011. [88549]

**Mr Robathan:** During 2011 there were some 296 personnel involved on a daily basis on routine public duties primarily in London. In addition to this, there were a number of other ceremonial events throughout 2011 including the Queen's birthday parade, the royal wedding, the Cenotaph remembrance parade and other events across the UK and the world, which would have involved these and other armed forces personnel drawn from units across the three services.

### Armed Forces: Education

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the total cost to the public purse was of the Standard Learning Credit scheme in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; [87893]

(2) what the average proportion of course fees claimed by service personnel through the Standard Learning Credit scheme is; [87894]

(3) what the average contribution made by the Government towards the cost of course fees undertaken by service personnel through the Standard Learning Credit scheme is; [87895]

(4) how many service personnel used the Standard Learning Credit scheme in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [87896]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence promotes lifelong learning among members of the armed forces; this is encouraged through the Learning Credits schemes. The Standard Learning Credit (SLC) scheme supplies financial support, throughout the Service person's career, for multiple, small-scale learning activities.

SLC is a refund scheme and operates as an annualised allowance to the value of £175.00. Training by this funding stream is subject to a minimum 20% personal contribution and fees are refunded upon completion of learning.

The following table lists the amount refunded and the number of service personnel who have accessed the scheme.

| *Financial year* | *Total number of claimants* | *Total refunded (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 14,600 | 1.9 |
| 2008-09 | 16,700 | 2.3 |
| 2009-10 | 18,100 | 2.8 |
| 2010-11 | 10,600 | 1.5 |

Records relating to this funding are retained within individual units. It is therefore, not possible to identify the value of average course fees and the Government's contribution without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Military Decorations

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what type of medals have been issued by the Medal Office in 2011; and at what cost such medals were awarded. [88315]

**Mr Robathan:** The number and types of medals and clasps that have been issued by the Ministry of Defence Medal Office between 1 January and 21 December 2011 is shown in the following table:

| *Type of Medal/Clasp* | *Medals* | *Clasps* |
|---|---|---|
| Historic (First World War) | 29 | 0 |
| Historic (Second World War) | 8,600 | 256 |
| Post War Campaigns | 2,223 | 131 |
| Current | 17,990 | 182 |
| Conduct and Reserves | 5,177 | 2,332 |
| Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll | 463 | 0 |
| Honours and Gallantry | 271 | 0 |

The total gross costs incurred by the MOD Medal Office in 2011 is £2,505,657[1].

[1] The figure provided includes all medal, bullion, and actual staff pay costs for the MOD Medal Office, and excludes any Head Office/Corporate overheads. It also includes £994,664 Net Additional Costs of Military Operations (NACMO) which in line with HM Treasury Guidance, can be claimed back from the Treasury Reserve.

### Cyprus and Germany: UK Bases

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the net annual contribution to the economies of *(a)* Cyprus and *(b)* Germany of the basing of UK service personnel in those countries. [88852]

**Nick Harvey:** To inform the Basing Review, the Ministry of Defence recently estimated the annual contribution of UK service personnel based in Germany to Germany's Gross Domestic Product as at least £650 million.

We have made no recent assessment of the net annual contribution to the economy of Cyprus through the basing of UK service personnel there.

### Consultants

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the employment of external consultants by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [88195]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence's current policy on employing external consultants is contained in Notice 2010DIN08-23 of July 2010, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. This policy is in line with Cabinet Office guidance on the subject.

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many consultants were employed by his Department in 2011; and what the cost to the public purse was. [88342]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* For Management consultancy contracts (as defined by Cabinet Office), the Department specifies its requirement as an output to be achieved. It does not specify the number of consultants to be employed as this is a matter for the contractor.

Between January and October 2011 the Ministry of Defence spent £15.9 million on Management consultancy. Data for November and December are not yet available. Total spend on Management consultancy in financial year (FY) 2010-11 was £26 million and in FY 2009-10, £79 million.

### Departmental Outsourcing

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84238]

**Peter Luff:** Information on outsourced services is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Private Finance Initiative commitments is published in the MOD Annual Report, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House and are available on the MOD's website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

### Secondment

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86133]

**Mr Robathan:** Inward secondments are covered by the general restrictions on external recruitment that apply across the civil service and are, therefore, only permissible where they are judged to be front-line or business critical. Secondments are also limited to a maximum of two years in duration. Since May 2010, 23 people have been seconded into the Ministry of Defence. A number of them have now completed their secondments. We do not hold information on the organisations from which people have been seconded centrally. The roles they have filled include Information Technology, Administrative Support, Nuclear Propulsion, Secretariat and Private Office, Legal, Electronics/Avionics, Project Management, Intelligence Analysis, Economics, Consultancy, Programme Management and Marine Engineering.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many temporary staff have been recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [88004]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence recruited 16 temporary staff between September and November 2011. Temporary contracts are used to reflect the finite nature of the requirement and include casual appointments as well as longer fixed terms. The appointments are usually for teaching grades, or in direct support of ongoing operations in Afghanistan, or to provide cover for service personnel deployed on current operations.

Recruitment to the civil service is regulated by the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010. The Act established the Civil Service Commission with the role of regulating recruitment to the civil service, principally through their Recruitment Principles. All temporary recruitment to the Department has been in accordance with these Recruitment Principles. The Recruitment Principles are available at:

www.civilservicecommission.org.uk

### Departmental Written Questions

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 752-53W, on departmental written questions, what the question number is of each question for written answer which was answered after 30 sitting days. [88153]

**Mr Robathan:** The information requested is as follows:

1059
1310
3250
6310
7430
10108
14476
20822
38982
40140
40141
41024
56077
56175
59547
59615
62989
66612
66614
67102
67103
69757
69758
69774
70329
70331
70333
70336
71290
72965
73164
74751.

### Documents: Data Protection

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what systems are in place in his Department to measure how many documents are protectively marked in any given month or year; if he will estimate the number of documents which were protectively marked under each level of classification in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and if he will make a statement; [89084]

(2) how many documents were protectively marked in each year between 2005 and 2011; and what marking each such document received. [89086]

**Mr Robathan:** There is no central register of all protectively marked documents, files or other assets. Accountable items are recorded and accounted for locally in accordance with government policy. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* training and *(b)* guidance is given to officials in his Department on the operation of his Department's protective marking schemes. [89085]

**Mr Robathan:** Training and guidance on the operation of the government protective marking scheme is provided as part of information handling and security training and included in the information security policy and guidance published within the Department.

### Ex-Servicemen: Resettlement

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to support retired armed forces personnel through the process of resettlement. [88194]

**Mr Robathan:** All service leavers are entitled to some form of resettlement advice. This includes financial related briefings covering budget and debt management, with further in-depth advice available if desired. Specialist housing advice, and advice on the importance of seeking medical help, including the ability to access mental health services should they feel it necessary.

Further support is available to eligible personnel through the Career Transition Partnership (a partnership between the Ministry of Defence and Right Management) through training courses; career transition workshops; employment and future career advice; assistance with CV writing and job preparation; vocational training; and a job-search/recruitment facility. In addition lifetime job finding support is available from the Officers' Association or the Regular Forces Employment Association.

### Ex-Servicemen: Employment

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 472W, on ex-servicemen: employment, how many individuals constitute the five per cent. of Career Transition Partnership clients who have not secured employment within six months of leaving. [87929]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* Some 800 service leavers, who were clients of the Career Transition Partnership, were not in employment within six months of leaving the armed forces. However, we do not collect information on the reasons for this situation, and the figures may include those who have retired, are taking a career break, have re-entered education, or are travelling.

### HMS Queen Elizabeth

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects sea trials for HMS Queen Elizabeth to commence; and if he will make a statement. [88812]

**Peter Luff:** The contractor-based sea trials programme will be reviewed along with the in service dates for both carriers, as part of our conversion investigations which are due to conclude at the end of this year.

### Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has set a delivery timetable for the F35C Joint Strike Fighter. [87816]

**Peter Luff:** As set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, we continue to plan on delivery of Joint Combat Aircraft capability coherently with the Carrier from 2020. However, we will not set a firm in service date until after our next Main Gate decision in 2013.

### MOD Abbey Wood

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what permission requirements there are for each grade of staff working at MOD Abbey Wood who wish to move to work in the private defence sector; what mechanism exists to monitor the granting of such permissions; and if he will make a statement. [87725]

**Mr Robathan:** Former Ministry of Defence (MOD) civil servants at all levels and members of the armed forces are subject to rules on accepting outside appointments or employment. These apply for two years after leaving Crown service as set out in the Government's Business Appointment Rules. Applications from senior MOD civil servants or members of the armed forces (senior civil service grade three and above and military equivalent) are referred to the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments, who act independently to give advice to the Prime Minister regarding these applications. Decisions on all other applications are considered and approved internally based on the grade/rank in line with above governing bodies.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Candidates: Leave

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on recommendation 37 of the Final Report of the Speaker's Conference on Parliamentary Representation that the Government should bring forward legislative proposals to give approved prospective parliamentary candidates who are employees the right to request unpaid leave from the dissolution of Parliament until election day; and if he will make a statement. [89223]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are extending the right to request flexible working, (currently available to parents and carers), to all employees with 26 weeks qualifying service, regardless of the reasons, with the onus on both the employer and employee to reach an arrangement that works for both. Such arrangements would be beneficial to election candidates.

### House of Lords Reform

**John Mann:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister with reference to his proposals for reform of the House of Lords, what assessment he has made of the regional balance of existing members of the House of Lords. [88817]

**Mr Harper:** A disproportionate number of current members of the House of Lords reside in London and the south-east with other regions, such as the east midlands and the north-west, being underrepresented. The Government propose an 80% or 100% elected reformed House of Lords based on a system of proportional representation using large electoral districts. The weight of a vote would be broadly equal for voters across the United Kingdom.

**John Mann:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister with reference to his proposals for reform of the House of Lords, what assessment he has made of the reliability of paternity claims in determining rights to hereditary peerages. [88922]

**Mr Harper:** The Government have made no such assessment. There are established procedures already in place for determining succession to hereditary peerages. Under the Government's proposals, there will be no reserved places for hereditary peers in a reformed House of Lords.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 20 September and *(b)* 10 November 2011 regarding a constituent, Ms T Sparrow. [89096]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** My office does not hold a record of receiving the hon. Member's original correspondence. My office received a copy of the correspondence from the hon. Member today and a response will be sent as soon as possible.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Public Sector: Job Satisfaction

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to improve wellbeing and morale among public sector workers. [88807]

**Mr Maude:** Every employer is responsible for the morale and wellbeing of their own staff, and each faces their own unique circumstances and challenges to deliver this. The Cabinet Office supports a collaborative approach within the civil service to improving morale and wellbeing. We facilitate and support a network for Government Departments and their agencies to promote best practice and share learning and different approaches to improving engagement within organisations. Further information is available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/improving/employee-engagement-in-the-civil-service

This is complemented by our approach to measuring the wellbeing of civil servants, which was piloted in the Civil Service People Survey this year. While the survey data we have is experimental at the moment, we believe that measurement should shed new light on barriers and opportunities to maintaining and improving workforce wellbeing during challenging times.

### Public Sector: Procurement

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to develop a mechanism to enable members of the public to *(a)* raise concerns about public service provision and *(b)* hold providers of public services to account. [88777]

**Mr Letwin:** The Open Public Services White Paper published last July outlined the Government's plans for modernising public services based on five principles, including accountability. There are a number of reforms to ensure that public services are accountable to citizens, both directly and through elected representatives. Choice, transparency and a "voice" can also help to improve accountability.

Departments are responsible for implementing the Open Public Services agenda. This includes ensuring that there are clear and accessible routes for individuals to raise concerns about the services which they are responsible for, and that effective mechanisms for holding providers to account are embedded in their reform programmes.

For example, in response to the NHS Future Forum's report, the Government have made changes to the Health and Social Care Bill to strengthen accountability in the NHS, including clarifying overall ministerial responsibility for the NHS and improving governance arrangements for clinical commissioning groups.

We are also working with other Departments to explore new ideas for strengthening means of redress for service users, such as exploring whether the ombudsman can play a greater role in providing redress if choice is not available or where standards are not good enough.

We will be publishing an update on progress on the Open Public Services agenda soon. This will include a description of the measures taken to improve the accountability of public services across the board.

## EDUCATION

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87347]

**Tim Loughton:** Information on the number of staff working in the Department on the exact dates requested is not held centrally.

*Number of staff employed by the Department at the nearest available dates*

| | *Headcount* | | *Full-time equivalent* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Education family*[1] | *Department* | *Education family*[1] | *Department* |
| 30 March 2010 | 9,710 | 2,691 | 9,258 | 2,571 |
| 30 November 2011 | 7,949 | 2,752 | 7,466 | 2,633 |

[1] Includes figure for Department

The latest published information for the Education Family work force (the Department and its arm's length bodies) is now available on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a00199711/monthly-workforce-management-information-2011

### E-mail

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Information Commissioner's guidance on official information held in private e-mail accounts, what steps he is taking to ensure *(a)* information concerning the Building Schools for the Future Programme in Sandwell and *(b)* other data from the private e-mail accounts of former employees of his Department is retained. [88686]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The Department is considering the new guidance and the Commissioner's report into the Department's practices, policies and procedures provided on the same day. Once consideration is complete officials will take forward, as appropriate, the recommendations made.

### Pupils: Qualifications

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the total number of key stage four qualifications accredited as GCSE or equivalent standard was for each academic year from 1999-2000 to date. [88774]

**Mr Gibb:** This is a matter for the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation. Glenys Stacey, its chief executive, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

*Letter from Glenys Stacey, dated 11 January 2012:*

I am responding to your parliamentary question with regard to the qualifications we accredit.

I would like to bring your attention to two things to assist your understanding of the limits of the information we have provided.

Firstly, we only have access to information collected since 2007. We have no knowledge that data was collected in the years before Ofqual's existence. Secondly, to best answer your question, we have interpreted the concept of equivalence. That is, we have included accredited GCSEs and qualifications that are Level 1_2 or Level 2. This is the most sensible interpretation that we can use. In practice, equivalence is a little more exacting and refers to grades as well as qualifications.

You ask for information by academic year and it may that you are particularly interested in school qualifications. I should say that we don't have information here to show which of these qualifications are used in schools, but many of them won't be, because they are designed for the workplace.

The table shows the number of qualifications on the Register that are offered in England by awarding organisations and are available for pre-16 learning. This includes GCSEs and qualifications at Level 1_2 or Level 2 for Academic Years 2007/2008 to 2010/2011.

I am afraid we have not been able to fully answer your question. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need to drill down into the information further and we will endeavour to assist you.

| | | *Academic year* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Type* | *Level* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* | *2010/11* |
| Basic Skills | Level 2 | 72 | 72 | 72 | 72 |
| English Other Languages | Level 2 | 36 | 36 | 39 | 39 |
| Free Standing Mathematics Qualification | Level 2 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Functional Skills NQF | Level 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 123 |
| Functional Skills QCF | Level 2 | 93 | 93 | 99 | 0 |
| General Certificate Secondary Education | Level 1_2 | 1,064 | 1,073 | [1]1,967 | [1]1,379 |
| General NVQ | Level 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Key Skills | Level 2 | 264 | 264 | 264 | 270 |
| NVQ | Level 2 | 204 | 222 | 168 | 129 |
| Occupational Qualification | Level 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Other General Qualification | Level 1_2 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 52 |
| | Level 2 | 414 | 459 | 456 | 426 |
| Principal Learning | Level 2 | 0 | 39 | 90 | 138 |
| Project | Level 2 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 18 |
| QCF Qualification | Level 2 | 72 | 978 | 1,958 | 3,640 |
| Vocational Qualification | Level 2 | 1119 | 1,182 | 1,092 | 650 |
| Totals | | 3,371 | 4,457 | 4,324 | 5,581 |

[1] There are duplicate GCSE qualifications in place during the period in which the specifications were revised. Source: National Register of Qualifications

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88607]

**Mr Duncan:** DFID continues to engage with co-operative organisations in various ways—as financial intermediaries, in agriculture and as members of the private sector. We do not have a separate strategy for working with co-operative organisations. DFID will work closely with the Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and with Co-operatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

### Developing Countries: Agriculture

**Penny Mordaunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to alleviate hunger and famine through investment in agriculture in the developing world. [88343]

**Mr O'Brien:** In 2009, the UK agreed to contribute £1.1 billion between 2009 and 2012 in support of the Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI), with prioritised investment in agriculture to promote food and nutrition security. After two years we have disbursed over 80% of our AFSI commitment. As an example, the Department for International Development is co-funding a programme on land tenure reform in Rwanda which will result in 8 million smallholder farmers receiving land titles. The title document gives farmers a greater sense of ownership of their land which results in increased investment in productive capacity. DFID also supports the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme to ensure that support for country-led agricultural development plans is co-ordinated effectively.

DFID funding for agricultural research has increased from £35.6 million in 2005-06 to £70 million in 2010-11. DFID has, for example, co-funded GALVmed (Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines) to make the vaccine for East Coast Fever (ECF) more accessible and affordable to livestock keepers. ECF is a tick-transmitted disease that threatens more than 25 million cattle across eastern and southern Africa each year.

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what policies his Department has implemented to support agricultural production in developing countries since his appointment. [88518]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Department for International Development (DFID) Aid Reviews published in March 2011 set out the Department's priorities and expected results over the coming three years. Over the next three years DFID will provide support to agriculture, food security and nutrition in developing countries in order to stop 20 million more children going hungry and to ensure another 4 million people have enough food throughout the year.

We will achieve these results through a range of policies and programmes. DFID funding for agricultural research has increased from £35.6 million in 2005-06 to just under £70 million in 2010-11. DFID has, for example, co-funded the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines to make the vaccine for East Coast Fever (ECF), a serious tick-transmitted disease of cattle in eastern and southern Africa, more accessible and affordable to livestock keepers. DFID also supports the work of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to address global food security and raise the incomes of poor rural men and women through investments in agriculture. Recognising the important role the private sector plays in promoting agricultural growth, DFID is promoting public-private partnerships in agriculture in developing countries to mobilise investments that benefit smallholder farmers. For example, in Mozambique, DFID is supporting the Beira Agricultural Growth Corridor, in order to create new rural jobs and raise smallholder farm incomes.

### Developing Countries: Diarrhoea

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the rate of mortality from diarrhoea in the developing world. [89001]

**Mr O'Brien:** The UK is at the forefront of international efforts to help prevent deaths from diarrhoea, which is the second leading cause of death for children under five globally. Hygiene promotion is the most cost effective intervention for controlling endemic diarrhoea. In the Department for International Development's (DFID's) publication: "UK Aid: Changing lives, delivering results", the UK agreed to give 15 million people access to clean drinking water, improve access to sanitation for 25 million people, improve hygiene for 15 million people.

The UK's funding to the GAVI Alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations) will vaccinate 80 million children and save 1.4 million lives during 2011 to 2015. This will enable the GAVI Alliance to roll out the rotavirus vaccine, (rotavirus is the most common cause of severe diarrhoea in young children worldwide) vaccinating 50 million children in more than 30 of the world's poorest countries. In addition we are helping to develop vaccines against bacteria that cause diarrhoea.

### International Citizen Service

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consultation he undertook prior to establishing the International Citizen Service. [88043]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The International Citizen Service (ICS) has been designed in two phases: a pilot phase and a phase of full implementation. Consultations on the design of the pilot phase were held with a range of volunteering organisations. The pilot phase has been used to provide evidence for the design of the full implementation. Consultations to help design the full programme have been conducted in three ways:

(1) 5 early engagement meetings were held at DFID. These were open to all and were attended by stakeholders from academia, volunteering organisations and research groups, details available at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/ics

(2) A mid term evaluation of the pilot phase of the ICS was conducted between June and October 2011. The evaluation exercise collected views from volunteers, the communities where volunteers have been active, and from the organisations sending young people overseas. A copy is available at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/ics

(3) DFID conducted consultations directly with stakeholders from Government Departments and volunteering agencies.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria his Department will apply when awarding the contract to administer the International Citizen Service. [88044]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The high level award criteria for the International Citizen Service (ICS) programme were published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) advert in line with the Public Contracts Regulations. These were:

| | *Weighting* |
|---|---|
| Methodology | 45 |
| Quality of personnel | 30 |
| Commercial proposal | 25 |

The Invitation to Tender (ITT) pack contains a breakdown of the award criteria into the relevant sub-criteria and weightings. The Invitation to Tender pack will be published in line with the Government's Transparency Agenda when the ITT deadline has passed.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what process his Department will follow when awarding the contract to administer the International Citizen Service. [88046]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The International Citizen Service (ICS) is being tendered through an open procurement process under the European Union Restricted Procedure and in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

### Somalia: International Co-operation

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's objectives are for the International Conference on Somalia in London on 23 February 2012. [88037]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Government's overall objective for the London Conference on Somalia is to deliver a new, international approach to Somalia. The objectives of the Department for International Development (DFID), working closely with other Government Departments and international partners, are to contribute to achieving concrete progress on the actions which will help create the stability required for development and poverty reduction, and prevent a recurrence of humanitarian crisis in Somalia.

The Government hopes that the Conference will agree practical measures to: confront immediate threats from terrorism and piracy; support peace-keeping activity; broaden responsibility for a peaceful political settlement; promote stability at the sub-national level; renew commitment to tackle Somalia's humanitarian crisis, and improve international co-ordination.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Coal Health Compensation Scheme

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much has been paid in compensation under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme for cases of *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger in each parliamentary constituency; [88941]

(2) how many people have received compensation under the Coal Health Compensation scheme for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger in each parliamentary constituency. [88942]

**Charles Hendry:** Tables showing the amount of compensation paid to former miners and their families for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Vibration White Finger under the Coal Health Compensation Schemes and the number of claims settled by way of payment broken down by constituencies will be made available in the Libraries of the House.

These figures were as at 19 June 2011. As both Schemes are now concluded no further updates will be available.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been paid from the Coal Health Compensation scheme to solicitors in respect of claims for *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and to which solicitor each such payment was made. [88943]

**Charles Hendry:** Tables showing the amount paid to each solicitors for handling claims for Vibration White Finger and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme will be made available in the Libraries of the House.

These figures were as at 19 June 2011. As both Schemes are now concluded no further updates will be available.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89398]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department currently has one person employed at Grade 7 as a speechwriter.

### Departmental Meetings

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on record keeping for official meetings. [89044]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC's policy on record keeping is set in accordance with standards and guidelines set out by the National Archives.

All information which is of corporate value to DECC must be saved into the Department's electronic records management system. This includes records of official meetings which are kept for accountability and audit purposes, and for other ongoing business needs.

These records will be kept for a minimum period of eight years; after this they will be reviewed. Minutes which are no longer required for legal, accountability of historical purposes will then be destroyed. The remainder will either be transferred to the National Archives or held for as long as required and then destroyed.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89397]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC has not issued any guidelines to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns as this information was centrally disseminated to Departments and non-departmental public bodies following the Government's Social Mobility Strategy announcement in April 2011.

### Energy: Meters

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to publish communications and security interface standards for smart meters to enable manufacturers to develop equipment that will inter-operate with smart meters. [89024]

**Charles Hendry:** Yes. We anticipate that specifications in these areas will be published by the end of the year.

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households that have smart meters. [89065]

**Charles Hendry:** Drawing on information provided by the large energy suppliers, at the end of 2011 approximately 540,000 meters with some aspects of smart functionality were installed in around 350,000 homes across Great Britain. A number of the meters installed were duel fuel resulting in the total number of meters installed being higher than the number of households affected.

### Energy: Prices

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the electricity market review on consumer energy bills in 2025 assuming fossil fuel prices *(a)* do not rise and *(b)* rise by 30 per cent. [88876]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC regularly publishes energy projections which present assumptions for future fossil fuel prices (coal, oil and gas) under a range of scenarios but not including these specific criteria. The analysis contained in section 5 of the impact assessment (IA) accompanying the electricity market reform White Paper is based on DECC's 2010 updated energy projections and provides details on the impact of electricity market reform policies on consumers under the range of DECC fossil fuel price assumptions.

The EMR White Paper IA can be found at the following weblink:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/policy-legislation/EMR/2180-emr-impact-assessment.pdf

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis is for his Department's estimate that the overall average household energy bill in 2020 would be 7% lower without the energy and climate policies the Government is pursuing. [89618]

**Charles Hendry:** On 23 November 2011, alongside the Annual Energy Statement, DECC published an assessment of the impact of climate change and energy polices on energy prices and bills.

The headline message for the household sector was that the average household energy bill in 2020 was estimated to be around 7% lower than it would have been in the same year if energy and climate change policies were never introduced. This is because the effects of government policies which help households to save energy will more than offset the necessary cost of investing in new capacity and greater efficiency.

The report details the main assumptions and methodology used to carry out the analysis and is available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/aes/impacts/impacts.aspx

Annex B details the policies which were used in the assessment and links to the relevant impact assessments which set out the evidence base which informed the policy costs and savings used.

### Natural Gas: Prices

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the average cost of gas on the international wholesale market in each year since 2000. [89717]

**Charles Hendry:** The Department monitors daily wholesale gas prices on an ongoing basis. Global gas markets are not fully integrated and therefore a number of different regional spot markets exist. The Department monitors key spot markets including the UK National Balancing Point (NBP), US Henry Hub (HH), Dutch Title Transfer Facility (TTF) and the Zeebrugge Hub in Belgium.

The Department's wholesale gas price data comes from a private data provider on a daily basis. A summary of annual average wholesale prices derived from the daily prices is shown in the following table.

*Average annual wholesale gas prices 2000-11*

| *Pence per therm* | *NBP* | *ZEE* | *TTF*[1] | *HH* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 17 | 19 | — | 29 |
| 2001 | 22 | 22 | — | 27 |
| 2002 | 16 | 17 | — | 22 |
| 2003 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 34 |
| 2004 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 32 |
| 2005 | 42 | 40 | 33 | 49 |
| 2006 | 40 | 43 | 40 | 37 |
| 2007 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 35 |
| 2008 | 58 | 59 | 58 | 47 |
| 2009 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 25 |
| 2010 | 42 | 43 | 43 | 28 |
| 2011 | 56 | 57 | 57 | 25 |

[1] Data for TTF prices is available from 21 January 2003 onwards.

*Source:* UCIS Heren.

### Offshore Industry

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the review of the oil and gas regulatory regime considered a moratorium on offshore deepwater drilling activities in the North sea. [89361]

**Charles Hendry:** The review concluded that there were a great many positives in the UK offshore regulatory regime including the goal-setting safety regime, rigorously enforced environmental standards and a sophisticated emergency response framework. Based on these assessments, it concluded that there was not any reason for a moratorium on drilling on the UK continental shelf.

### Renewable Energy

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tonnes of carbon dioxide were displaced by renewable electricity generation in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009, (iv) 2010 and (v) 2011. [89539]

**Charles Hendry:** The following table shows the amount of carbon dioxide displaced by renewable electricity generation in England, Scotland, Wales and the UK in 2007 to 2010.

*$CO_2$ displaced by electricity generated from renewable energy projects*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | *England* | *Scotland* | *Wales* | *UK* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 6,021 | 5,157 | 859 | 12,302 |
| 2008 | 6,259 | 5,453 | 987 | 13,084 |
| 2009 | 7,099 | 6,364 | 954 | 14,935 |
| 2010 | 8,124 | 5,611 | 956 | 15,175 |

These figures were calculated using the total amount of electricity generated by renewable projects in each of the year and country combinations multiplied by an estimate of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions per GWh of electricity supplied for a combination of fossil fuels (which is based on the known fossil fuel mix for electricity generation in the UK in each year).

Figures for 2011 have not been provided as the underlying electricity generation data from renewable projects is not yet available. Provisional data for 2011 will be available on 29 March 2012 and final data by 27 September 2012.

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on providing priority grid access and dispatch for electricity from renewable energy. [89619]

**Charles Hendry:** Article 16 of the 2009 renewable energy directive requires that member states provide either priority or guaranteed access to the grid for connected generators of electricity from renewable energy sources, and priority dispatch for electricity from renewable energy sources, subject to requirements relating to the maintenance of the reliability and safety of the grid.

We provide guaranteed access in Great Britain through a market-based approach for all generators connected to the grid, including renewables. As regards priority dispatch, we also have a market-based approach where dispatch depends on the generator meeting a market price. Where it is necessary to prevent access on occasion in order to ensure the reliability and safety of the grid system, our market arrangements determine which generator reduces its output, and these generators are compensated. Our market-based arrangements tend to promote output from renewable generation as it will usually be more cost-effective for conventional generation to reduce its output given that it incurs fuel costs when running.

### Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if his Department will continue to pay the feed-in tariff at the original rate until legal proceedings are concluded. [89007]

**Gregory Barker:** The proposals within the Phase I consultation would not lead to a change in tariff until 1 April 2012. On this date, all sites with an eligibility date on or after the reference date would see their tariff reduce. Following conclusion of the appeal process, which we expect next week, we will make an announcement about the future of the FITs scheme, including final proposals on PV and consultation proposals on non-PV tariffs.

Regardless of the outcome of the appeal, the overall situation with the feed-in tariffs scheme remains the same—the current high tariffs for solar PV are not sustainable and changes need to be made in order to protect the budget which is funded by consumers through their energy bills.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the costs incurred by his Department in lodging an appeal in respect of the feed-in tariff. [89008]

**Gregory Barker:** I estimate that the Government have incurred costs of approximately £58,000 to date. In the event that we are successful on appeal we would expect to recover all, or a substantial proportion, of our costs.

### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) pursuant to his contribution of 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 372, on solar power: feed-in tariff, what the basis was for his statement that the cost of feed-in tariffs to an average consumer could be £80; [83926]

(2) how many solar installations would be required to add *(a)* £26 and *(b)* £80 to average consumer bills by 2020. [83927]

**Gregory Barker:** In addition to the impact assessment published alongside the FITs consultation, a fuller explanation was provided to the joint Energy and Climate Change Select Committee and Environmental Audit Committee hearing on 29 November 2011 and in written evidence to their inquiry in to solar power feed-in tariffs. The transcript and written evidence are available at:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/solar-power-feed-in-tariffs/

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the potential effect on the average annual household energy bill of maintaining the solar PV feed-in tariff at its current rates until 1 April 2012. [84132]

**Gregory Barker:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) to questions 83926 and 83927.

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many solar photovoltaic installations qualifying for the feed-in tariff scheme there were between 31 October 2011 and 12 December 2011. [89461]

**Gregory Barker:** The latest monthly published statistics show that between April 2010 and October 2011, the number of solar PV installations (of sub 50kW capacity) on the Microgeneration Certificate Scheme database (MCS) was 127,474. Of these, 70% (89,297) have been confirmed on Ofgem's central FiT register (CFR).

In addition, there were 3,534 solar PV confirmed installations on the CFR but not registered on the MCS database at the end of December 2011. Of these, 316 installations were confirmed after 31 October 2011. These installations are not registered on the MCS database because the installation capacity is greater than 50kW, so are additional to the MCS numbers.

The number of solar PV installations registered on the MCS database between 31 October 2011 and 12 December 2011 was 102,183.

### Warm Home Discount Scheme

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Independent Review of Fuel Poverty considered an extension of the Warm Home Discount data-sharing scheme. [89307]

**Gregory Barker:** Professor Hills published his interim report in October 2011. He is due to present his final report to Government in early 2012. It is expected that as well as a final recommendation on measurement of fuel poverty this final report will include some discussions on the implications for policy-making and delivery of support. I will carry out an assessment of Professor Hills' recommendations and their policy implications once his final report is available.

### Wind Power

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department will provide for connecting offshore wind farms to the national grid in the remainder of the comprehensive spending review period. [88875]

**Charles Hendry:** The investment required for electricity transmission infrastructure to connect offshore wind farms to the National Electricity Transmission System is made by the private sector. The investment is made either by an Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO) appointed by Ofgem on the basis of a competitive tender process, or by the wind farm developer where it chooses to construct the assets itself before transferring them to the OFTO for operation. The Department does not therefore, plan to provide any funding towards the construction of offshore electricity transmission assets over the remainder of the comprehensive spending review period.

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to evaluate the environmental impact of wind farms which become derelict in the future. [89077]

**Charles Hendry:** There are mechanisms in place to ensure that wind farms onshore and offshore do not become derelict but are already decommissioned by the developers of those projects when they cease operating. Offshore, there is a statutory decommissioning scheme which allows the Secretary of State to compel wind farm developers to submit costed programmes for the removal of their projects with funds set aside for that purpose: onshore, developers will work with the relevant local planning authorities to make the necessary arrangements for the removal of wind farms or individual turbines and for the land to be restored to an acceptable condition, the costs of which are borne by the developer.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88599]

**Mr Bellingham:** Government Departments are working with the Cabinet Office (Mutuals Taskforce) to take advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operatives during the UN International Year. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no current plans to mark the UN Year of the Co-operative 2012.

### South America: Diplomatic Service

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* embassies and *(b)* other diplomatic posts in South America have been closed in each of the last three years. [89374]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** None.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 16 January 2012*

## DEFENCE

### Armed Conflict: South Atlantic

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* recent assessment he has made of and *(b)* advice he has received from Defence Chiefs on (i) the UK naval capability and (ii) response time in the event of armed conflict involving British forces in the South Atlantic; and when any such advice was received. [88813]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence undertakes regular assessments of potential military threats to the Falkland Islands as with all UK Overseas Territories to ensure that we retain appropriate capabilities to address any emerging threats.

A range of military assets are deployed in defence of the Falkland Islands, including air defence aircraft, naval vessels and ground forces designed to ensure the security and territorial integrity of the Islands and its population. We also retain the ability to reinforce those assets with additional deployed forces, including naval capability, if required.

### Armed Forces: Life Insurance

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the soldiers who served in the conflict in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq were covered by PAX life insurance but with fewer than 15 units of insurance; [89478]

(2) how many soldiers who have served in the conflict in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq did so while being covered by PAX life insurance; [89518]

(3) how many soldiers who have served in the conflict in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq served without having PAX life insurance or any other life insurance; [89519]

(4) how many soldiers who have served in the conflict in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq were killed without having either PAX life insurance or any other life insurance. [89559]

**Mr Robathan:** I will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice is provided to military personnel on the life insurance options available to them. [89520]

**Mr Robathan:** Information on the personal insurance cover available is specifically provided to personnel during initial training and on pre-deployment briefings, including information on schemes specifically designed with the needs of service personnel in mind. Information is also readily available through units' human resources (HR) administrative staffs and through single service and central defence intranet sites.

HR administrative staffs are prevented, however, by the Financial Services Authority regulations, from providing individuals with specific financial advice, and are instructed that they should inform individuals that they must seek financial advice from a suitably qualified professional financial adviser should it be required.

### Recruitment

**Penny Mordaunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which areas of his Department's recruitment process are *(a)* currently and *(b)* scheduled to be outsourced; what assessment he has made of the benefit to his Department of outsourcing recruitment in each area currently outsourced; and what benefit he expects to achieve in each area to be outsourced. [88063]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* Since 2008, the Army has sought a commercial recruiting partner to transform Army recruiting by exploiting the expertise of the private sector while retaining a strong military interface with potential recruits at key stages, in particular the selection and nurturing stage. The aim of the Recruiting Partnering Project is to recruit the right quantity and quality of officer and soldier recruits, into both the Regular and Territorial Army, in order to maintain operational capability. The competition phase is now nearing an end and from an original five interested parties, the competition has now generated two draft bids which meet the requirement to deliver an integrated recruiting service consistently to meet the Army's recruiting targets. The solution will also deliver essential information and communications technology to support Royal Navy and Royal Air Force recruiting operations as their contracts come to an end in 2012.

The project is currently subject to the approvals process with the intention that a recommended supplier will be appointed in the near future and a subsequent contract awarded in March 2012. As the project is still subject to competitive rules, no details can be released at this stage. However, generic benefits will include substantial hard cash savings and reductions in military manpower (although a proportion will remain in recruiting) and the MOD civilian work force.

There are no plans to outsource recruitment in respect of entry into the civil service.

### Documents: Data Protection

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the criteria on which documents are marked *(a)* Protect, *(b)* Restricted, *(c)* Confidential, *(d)* Secret and *(e)* Top Secret; and if he will make a statement. [89083]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) uses the criteria in annex 1 of HMG Security Policy Framework (V7.0, October 2011) published by the Cabinet Office at the following link:

http://cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/security-policy-framework

This is a mandatory requirement on all Government Departments and agencies, the MOD does not independently set policy for protective marking.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88966]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence introduced one piece of secondary legislation during the period in question which originated from proposals by the European Commission. The Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1848) was laid before Parliament on 29 July 2011, and came into force on 21 August 2011.

These regulations transposed into domestic legislation the EU Defence and Security Directive (2009/81/EC), which had been agreed by the British Government when it was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on 13 July 2009.

### European Fighter Aircraft: Exports

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of potential exports of Eurofighter to *(a)* Japan, *(b)* India and *(c)* the Middle East; and if he will make a statement. [88809]

**Mr Gerald Howarth** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* My hon. Friend will have been disappointed to hear that Japan announced on 20 December 2011 their decision not to purchase the Eurofighter Typhoon.

There remains strong interest in Typhoon. Typhoon is one of two aircraft to have been down-selected by India to participate in the final phase of its medium multi-role combat aircraft competition. An announcement was made by Downing Street on 2 April 2010 that the Sultanate of Oman intends to purchase Typhoon on which discussions are taking place. It is also competing in a number of other important markets in the middle east, including the UAE which recently invited the Eurofighter Typhoon consortium to submit proposals for their requirement.

I expect an increase in interest in Typhoon following its highly successful air defence and ground attack roles on recent operations in Libya, where it consistently demonstrated exceptional levels of reliability, performance, accuracy, and overall cost-effectiveness.

### Japan: Military Aircraft

**Graham Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with BAE Systems on the decision of the Government of Japan to choose to procure the F35 joint strike fighter. [88649]

**Peter Luff:** Her Majesty's Government are clearly disappointed that the Eurofighter Typhoon bid for Japan's F-X future fighter requirement, led by BAE Systems, was unsuccessful. I have not held any discussions with the company on the decision.

This Department is committed to providing support to defence export campaigns where there is a direct benefit to defence to do so. Ministry of Defence Ministers and officials are providing support to all Typhoon export campaigns as part of an active and innovative defence diplomacy initiative. Indeed, ministerial colleagues from across Government have travelled to Japan taking the opportunity to discuss the operational success of Typhoon. We will continue to work closely with BAE Systems, our Eurofighter partners and colleagues from across Government in support of ongoing Typhoon export campaigns.

### Military Attachés

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to review the role military attachés play in promoting UK defence interests abroad. [88810]

**Mr Philip Hammond** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* The role of defence attachés is kept under review, and the forthcoming Defence Engagement Strategy, which we expect to publish in the near future, will enable the process to be undertaken jointly by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

### NATO

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's total financial contribution to NATO was in each of the last five years; and what comparative assessment he has made of the level of the UK's contribution compared to the other NATO partners. [88814]

**Mr Gerald Howarth:** The United Kingdom's financial contribution to NATO common funds for each of the years in question is set out in the following table. National cost shares are calculated using an agreed formula which reflects the relative economic strength of the allies.

These contributions complement the considerable military capability which we make available to NATO, and the manpower which we provide to help run the alliance command and force structures, and agencies. Allies have agreed that they should aim to invest at least 2% of GDP in Defence and we continue to encourage others to work towards this goal.

*UK contribution*

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *NATO military common funds*[1] | *NATO civil budget*[2] | *NATO operations and missions*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 110.0 | 25.9 | 21.1 |
| 2008-09 | 105.0 | 25.7 | 50.3 |
| 2009-10 | 124.1 | 26.3 | 47.3 |
| 2010-11 | 102.1 | 24.7 | 72.0 |
| 2011-12[3] | 106.7 | 22.8 | 71.9 |

[1] Funded by the Ministry of Defence.

[2] Funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

[3] Estimated contribution. For other financial years the figures show the final out-turn.

## WALES

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* those bodies for which her Department is responsible are taking to mark UN International Year of Cooperatives 2012; and if she will make a statement. [88598]

**Mr David Jones:** The Government are working closely with the Mutuals Taskforce and Co-operatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities across the UK to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives. We are also seeking discussions with the Welsh Government about the plans.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what equality impact assessments her Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88592]

**Mr David Jones:** The Wales Office has not brought forward any proposals requiring an equality impact assessment and therefore has not carried out any such assessments since May 2010.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many speechwriters her Department employs at each pay grade. [89413]

**Mr David Jones:** None.

## SCOTLAND

### Aviation

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Ministers in other Departments on future aviation links between Scotland and London following the proposed sale of BMI to International Airlines Group. [89152]

**David Mundell:** Scotland Office Ministers and officials have regular discussions with the Department for Transport on air connectivity in Scotland, including on implications of the proposed sale of BMI to International Airlines Group. I most recently discussed the issue with the Minister of State, Department for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers), last week and we continue to keep in close contact on the matter.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89412]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office does not employ speechwriters. Staff from different grades may be involved in speechwriting work, but this would be done alongside undertaking other duties.

### Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid to officials in his Department in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89707]

**David Mundell:** All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from other Government bodies, in the majority of cases, the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice and therefore staff may be eligible for bonuses, allowances and other payments additional to basic salary in different ways through their parent bodies' pay arrangements.

The Scotland Office is not responsible for payments made through end of year performance payments or allowances under staffs' parent bodies' pay arrangements and does not hold information centrally on these matters.

The Scotland Office is however able to directly authorise non-consolidated and non-pensionable bonus payments (including small and instantaneous awards, eg vouchers) in recognition of special effort, achievement and commitment. The following table shows the cost of such payments:

| *Financial year* | *Total cost of payments (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 2,925 |
| 2010-11 | 3,670 |

The only other category of payment made to officials in addition to basic salary was overtime/travel time payments totalling £73,649.76 in 2009-10 and £46,228.63 in 2010-11. The monetary value of the twenty largest overtime/travel time payments made in 2009-10 was £29,093.90, and in 2010-11 was £27,207.77.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88975]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office has not brought into force any regulations in primary legislation in 2010 or 2011.

The Scotland Office is responsible for managing a programme of secondary legislation, under order making powers provided in the Scotland Act 1998.

In 2010 we brought forward one order which included proposals that originated from the European Commission. This was the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010, which was made in consequence of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 of the Scottish Parliament, which introduced management tools to deliver requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

### Housing Benefit

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the *(a)* Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and *(b)* Scottish Federation of Housing Associations to discuss the effects in Scotland of changes to housing benefit regulation in Scotland; and whether he intends to meet them in order to discuss this issue in 2012. [89896]

**David Mundell:** The Department for Work and Pensions is in contact with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations concerning current changes to housing benefit regulation in Scotland. The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), is soon due to meet the President of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to discuss issues relating to Government policy.

### Sovereignty

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether, in the case that agreement is not reached with the Scottish Government on proposals for a referendum on separation, the issue would be referred to the disputes procedures under the Joint Ministerial Agreement with the devolved Administrations. [89895]

**David Mundell:** On 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 51-52, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), set out the Government's clear view that it is not within the powers of the Scottish Parliament to legislate for a referendum on independence and published a consultation on how to deliver a legal referendum.

I am confident that we can work with the Scottish Government to deliver a legal, fair and decisive referendum.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Correspondence

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish the letter he has sent to political parties in Northern Ireland inviting them to talks on how to come to terms with the past; and if he will make a statement. [89976]

**Mr Paterson:** It is clear that no consensus currently exists on the issue of dealing with the past in Northern Ireland. In my forthcoming meetings with the political parties, I intend to seek their views on how consensus can be found. The Government are ready to make their own contribution on the matter but they do not 'own' the past and cannot impose solutions; all those with an interest in Northern Ireland have a part to play.

Copies of the letters sent to the political parties have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89384]

**Mr Paterson:** None.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88976]

**Mr Paterson:** None.

### Joint Ministerial Group on Corporation Tax

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the outcome of the recent meeting of the Joint Ministerial Group on Corporation Tax; and if he will make a statement. [89987]

**Mr Paterson:** We had a very constructive first meeting on 15 December of the Ministerial Working Group on Rebalancing the Northern Ireland Economy, bringing together the First and deputy First Ministers, the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, the right hon. Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) and I, under the chairmanship of the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for South West Hertfordshire (Mr Gauke).

The group agreed an intensive programme of work by officials aimed at examining in detail a range of issues associated with the devolution of corporation tax which need to be pursued before final decisions are taken. That work is now under way.

### Police: Intelligence Services

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what assessment he has made of implementation of Annex E of the St Andrews Agreement; what the status is of memoranda of understanding between the Security Services and the Police Service of Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement; [88805]

(2) what high-level memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between the Security Services and *(a)* the Police Service of Northern Ireland and *(b)* others have been published since the St Andrews Agreement; what other levels of MOUs exist; and whether they are available. [88806]

**Mr Paterson:** The Government believe that the arrangements for national security in Northern Ireland are operating effectively. We are confident that the five key national security principles relating to the sharing of intelligence between the PSNI and the Security Service are fully embedded.

As set out in my written ministerial statement to the House on 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 145-46WS, Lord Carlile of Berriew's latest independent assessment of the arrangements has found that there are no difficulties of any significance in the inter-operability between the PSNI and the Security Service and identifies this is a sound working partnership and one that is to be commended.

Memorandums of understanding between the Security Service and others, including the PSNI, exist. The relationship between the Security Service and PSNI was set out in a statement in January 2007 by the then Prime Minister.

### Poverty

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the effect of Government policies on *(a)* pensioner and *(b)* child poverty. [89975]

**Mr Paterson:** These are matters which I and the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), discuss regularly with Northern Ireland Ministers. They were also raised at a meeting with the Minister for Social Development and the Minister for Employment and Learning and the Minister for Welfare Reform my noble Friend the Lord Freud, last year.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Advertising

**Mr Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on the application of controls on subliminal advertising to *(a)* cinemas, *(b)* television programmes and *(c)* computer programmes; and if he will make a statement. [89888]

**Mr Vaizey:** Advertising in the UK is controlled through a system of co-regulation and self-regulation, which is administered by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). This regulatory system is independent of Government and is ultimately responsible for setting the standards in advertising, including those adverts shown at cinemas, on television, as well as computer/video in-game advertising.

The Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) and the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) are the bodies responsible for writing and maintaining the advertising codes.

The ASA has advised that:

> "Broadcast advertising rule 3.8 [misleading advertising] states 'No advertisement may use images of very brief duration, or any other technique that is likely to influence consumers, without their being fully aware of what has been done.' A similar provision exists in the video-on-demand section of the CAP Code, which reflects the requirements of the 2003 Communications Act. Whilst the CAP Code does not itself contain a specific rule on subliminal advertising, complaints would likely be considered under the social responsibility clause."

### Arts

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will instruct English Heritage to take steps to prevent the dispersal of the collection of marbles formed by Henry Blundell now in the grounds of Ince Blundell Hall, Merseyside. [89970]

**John Penrose:** The removal of marbles at Ince Blundell is subject to Listed Building Consent and the decision rests with the local planning authority. Initially English Heritage advised that, if consent was given, the marbles should not be removed for one year to allow time for money to be raised for public or charitable acquisition. This condition was not accepted by the owner of Ince Blundell so English Heritage has advised refusal of consent for the removal of the marbles. However, some items have suffered serious deterioration and English Heritage has therefore advised their immediate removal for conservation purposes.

### Arts: Expenditure

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the total expenditure was in each parliamentary constituency by his Department on the arts in 2011. [88825]

**John Penrose:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) gives its expenditure on the arts to an arm's length body—Arts Council England (ACE)—to distribute independently of Government. Therefore, DCMS does not distribute funding for the arts to individual constituencies. So far, in 2011-12, DCMS has given £342,343,485 in grant in aid to ACE (some of which is spent on running costs). ACE also receives funds from the National Lottery Distribution Fund, which it also distributes independently of Government.

ACE has produced a table with its total expenditure on the arts by parliamentary constituency to date, in the financial year 2011-12. In this period, of ACE's expenditure that can be attributed to individual constituencies, £372,602,410 was distributed in 470 different constituencies. The geographical location of the investment reflects where the administrative base of the arts organisation is located, and therefore constituencies may be benefiting from work toured by or visiting from arts organisations with an administrative base located outside of the recipient constituency.

A copy of the table will be deposited in the Library of both Houses.

### Audio Equipment

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on how many occasions wireless microphones have been used at events hosted by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [89661]

**John Penrose:** The Department uses audio-visual equipment at some events, as necessary, but we do not keep a record of the types of microphones used.

### BBC

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the BBC received any grants or loans from the EU between 2005 and 2011. [89228]

**Mr Vaizey:** This is a matter for the BBC and I have asked the BBC to write direct to my hon. Friend. A copy of the BBC's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to encourage the BBC to exercise greater restraint in its spending on hospitality. [89973]

**Mr Vaizey:** Under the terms of the BBC Charter and Agreement, the BBC is independent of Government and there is no provision for the Government to intervene in the BBC's day-to-day activities. It is the responsibility of the BBC Trust to ensure that the BBC delivers financial efficiency and to hold the BBC Executive to account for its performance in delivering value for money.

The Government expect the BBC to achieve the highest standards of value-for-money for licence fee payers.

## Broadband

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to which areas he has extended the roll-out of superfast broadband by Broadband Delivery UK up to 2015. [89537]

**Mr Vaizey:** Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has been engaged in vital preparatory work over the past few months in readiness for a large number of local procurements and project implementations during 2012. There are currently eight projects in procurement. Five other projects have had their local broadband plans approved and all other local broadband plans should be submitted by the end of February 2012 and approved by the end of April 2012. The BDUK framework will be available to local authorities from April 2012 with the first five procurements under the framework taking place commencing immediately, and with others to follow over the ensuing months. All procurements are scheduled for completion by the end of 2012. The projects are therefore all scheduled for completion by the 2015 deadline.

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when his Department and the Scottish Government's joint working group on broadband coverage will next meet. [89966]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Scottish Government have not yet confirmed their agreement to establishing the proposed working group. However, officials from Scottish Government, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Scotland Office met on 12 January and agreed initial work that could be undertaken on broadband coverage.

## Broadband: Brighton and Hove

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to permit the City of Brighton and Hove to enter the competition to bid for funding from the urban broadband fund for super-connection of broadband. [89416]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government's Super-Connected Cities Initiative is seeking to transform how people and organisations interact with each other, handle information, access services and do business. We believe that our major cities, where there is a high density of people and businesses, offer the greatest potential to achieve this effect. We have defined these cities as the four national capitals, the eight English core cities and any other city with more than 150,000 dwellings. Brighton and Hove does not meet any of these criteria and will therefore not be eligible to bid for the Urban Broadband Fund.

## Civil Wars

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the adequacy of levels of protection for the Civil War battlefield of Naseby. [89967]

**John Penrose:** The Battle of Naseby battlefield is included in English Heritage's Register of Historic Battlefields and is therefore subject to the policies set out in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. We are satisfied that it is currently afforded the level of protection appropriate to such a site.

## Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89149]

**John Penrose:** The Department had five apprentices in the period April 2010 to March 2011 and these were funded at a cost of £22,680. In 2011-12, to date, the Department does not have any apprenticeships and has no specific funding set aside to support the scheme. We pledged to accept up to five apprenticeships/work placements during 2011-12 and have taken on three work placements, but do not plan to offer any more for the remainder of the year. Similarly, for the period 2012-13 there is no specific funding set aside to sponsor apprenticeships, any funding towards the scheme will be made from our existing pay budget.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he plans that his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89219]

**John Penrose:** The Department had five apprentices in the period April 2010 to March 2011. The Department had no apprentices between April and December 2011 but supported two summer work placements. There are currently no plans to sponsor apprenticeships between January 2012 and March 2013, while the Department focuses on delivering the Olympic Games and reorganisation following the Games. The Department will review the pledge again post-Olympics.

### Digital Broadcasting: Northern Ireland

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of homes in Northern Ireland that have not switched their televisions to digital. [89450]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government do not collect these statistics. The matter is primarily one for Digital UK, the independent not-for-profit company leading the implementation of switchover. Data from Digital UK's switchover tracker survey shows that in December 2011, 10 months before the digital switchover, 81% of Northern Ireland households were already watching digital television on at least one set, meaning 19% of Northern Ireland households had not yet switched to digital TV.

### Digital Broadcasting: Radio

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on switching radio from FM to digital; what assessment he has made of the potential effects of this switch on vehicle users; and if he will make a statement. [89857]

**Mr Vaizey:** A radio switchover would only begin following the satisfaction of the Digital Radio Switchover criteria, which are:

(i) When 50% of all listening is to digital;

(ii) When national DAB coverage is comparable to FM; and local DAB reaches 90% of the population and all major roads.

The Digital Radio Action Plan launched in 2010 and sets out the process for assessing the impact of a digital radio switchover for vehicle users, as well as what would be required to minimise any negative impacts.

The action plan is updated on a quarterly basis and is available on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/
Digital_RadioActionPlanDec11.pdf

### Direct Selling

**Eric Ollerenshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of unwanted and unsolicited telephone marketing calls; and if he will make a statement. [88887]

**Mr Vaizey:** Direct marketing is a legitimate business activity and it is particularly important to businesses trying to grow in difficult economic circumstances. However, unwanted and unsolicited calls can be a nuisance, so regulations are in place which enable consumers to opt out of such calls by registering with the Telephone Preference Scheme (TPS). The Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR) 2003 provides the legislative underpinning for the scheme and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has enforcement responsibility and considers complaints about breaches. In May of last year, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) increased the ICO's powers in relation to the regulations, enabling the ICO to issue a fine of up to £500,000 for the most serious breaches. In addition, DCMS is discussing the effectiveness of the TPS with Ofcom, who are responsible for the contract, to ensure that consumers continue to be effectively protected and improvements are made where necessary.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88964]

**John Penrose:** The number of such items brought into force, done so through secondary legislation only, in 2010 and 2011 respectively, were:

1. Four—the Communications Act 2003 (Disclosure of Information) Order 2010 SI 2010/282), the Audiovisual Media Services Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/419), the Audiovisual Media Services (Product Placement) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/831) and the Audiovisual Media Services (Codification) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1883).

2. Four—the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/1208), the Electronic Communications (Universal Service) (Amendment) Order 2011 (SI 2011/1209), the Electronic Communications and Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/1210) and the Communications Act 2003 (Maximum Penalty for Contravention of Information Requirements) Order 2011 (SI 2011/1773).

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which EU *(a)* Directives, *(b)* Regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89693]

**John Penrose:** The Commission Decision of 10 October 2011 (Decision 2011/667/EU) on modalities for co-ordinated application of the rules on enforcement with regard to mobile satellite services (MSS) is currently being considered by the Department as it may require the amendment of the Authorisation of Frequency Use for the Provision of Mobile Satellite Services (European Union) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/672) which implement the previous decisions in relation to mobile satellite services. No decisions as to whether UK legislation must be amended have yet been taken, and therefore I am unable to provide an estimate of the cost to the public purse and the private sector.

I am not aware of any other EU legislation currently requiring transposition for which this Department is responsible.

### Libraries and Museums

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to ensure that the provisions of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 are applied consistently nationwide; and what steps he plans to take to ensure proposed new community managed libraries remain part of the statutory service. [89530]

**Mr Vaizey:** The powers and duties of the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 only apply to library authorities in England. It is a matter for each local authority to configure their library services to fulfil the statutory duty placed on them under the 1964 Act—namely to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" public library service for their local library users. There is no absolute or single standard. Local authorities must assess local need and arrange their services to meet that need in light of available resource. It is for elected council members and local officials, in consultation with their communities, to make any necessary decisions about how money is being spent, to fulfil all their legal duties and having regard to all their community needs.

A community supported library can be used in addition to the public library service or, in a measured way, as part of it but only in appropriate circumstances and after careful analysis.

### Radio Frequencies

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on how many occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have met representatives of (i) mobile operators and (ii) the entertainment industry to discuss matters relating to spectrum use and availability in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [89585]

**Mr Vaizey:** My officials and I have had numerous meetings with all interested stakeholders including all the mobile network operators and the British Entertainment Industry Radio Group at which spectrum has been among the matters discussed. Spectrum matters are also covered as appropriate in meetings with industry where spectrum use and availability is not the sole topic of discussion.

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with Ofcom on the auction of the 600MHz band; and if he will make a statement; [89659]

(2) what consideration his Department has given to designating the 600MHz spectrum band for use by licensed programme making and special events users; and if he will make a statement. [89660]

**Mr Vaizey:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Our recent discussions with Ofcom on the award of the 600 MHz band have been to understand the current status of their work on this. My officials have spoken to Ofcom, who advised:

> "Ofcom are currently considering how to make spectrum at 600 MHz available. In doing this they are taking account of all the potential uses of the-spectrum, including its use for programme making and special events. They intend to consult on this once they have developed a longer term strategy for this and related bands".

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on implementing the recommendation of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee that Ofcom includes a provision to revoke licences in the 800 MHz band in cases of interference. [89662]

**Mr Vaizey:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

> "Ofcom has extensively analysed and tested the potential for new services in the 800 MHz band to cause harmful interference to users of neighbouring bands. It is confident the technical and other licence conditions it includes in the new 800 MHz licences will give neighbouring users an appropriate level of protection from harmful interference."

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Environment Protection

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the global environmental impacts of UK livestock farming including greenhouse gas emissions arising from overseas land use change; [87460]

(2) what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential for replacing imported soy with protein crops grown in Europe for animal feed use in the UK. [87461]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA is funding research in partnership with industry to evaluate the environmental impacts of the production of UK poultry (Project LK0693) and pigs (Project LK0682) using life cycle analysis, including green house gas emissions arising from overseas land use change. Project LK0682 is evaluating the environmental consequences of replacing imported soy with home-grown peas and beans in UK pig diets.

In 2009 DEFRA published a paper commissioned from ADAS on the potential to replace imported soya and maize with other feeds in livestock diets. This research is available on the website at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/gm/crops/documents/foodmatters-otherfeeds-1308.pdf

Under the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform, the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), in partnership with DEFRA, BBSRC and the Scottish Government, is investing up to £15 million in collaborative R&D focusing on the challenge of sustainable protein production, which includes increasing the domestic supply of sustainably produced vegetable protein for farmed animals (including land and marine based aquaculture).

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the total amount allocated to each region of the UK through the *(a)* single farm payment, *(b)* European Fisheries Fund and *(c)* Rural Development Programme in each of the last five years. [88018]

**Mr Paice:** The information is as follows:

*(a) Single Payment Scheme*

The amounts paid under the Single Payment Scheme, in millions of pounds per scheme year, are shown in table 1 as follows:

*Single Payment Scheme*

| | | | | | *£ million/pa* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| England | 1,622 | 1,447 | 1,629 | 1,887 | 1,775 |
| Scotland | 419 | 404 | 443 | 513 | 479 |
| Wales | 224 | 228 | 251 | 287 | 267 |
| Northern Ireland | 232 | 224 | 251 | 290 | 269 |

*(b) European Fisheries Fund*

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) is intended to help secure a sustainable and profitable fisheries industry. It will grant financial support during the programme period 2007-13, with a view to help the fisheries sector adapt to changing circumstances.

The budget for the European Fisheries fund was profiled over the period 2008-13, and has been allocated to England and the devolved Administrations of the UK. There was no budget profile in 2007, as the EFF Operational Programme was not finalised with the European Commission until 2008.

The budget is further allocated to convergence and non-convergence regions within the UK. The convergence objective is aimed at supporting the least economically developed regions of the UK. This makes funding available for regions with average gross domestic product per capita below 75% of the European Union average. In terms of the EFF, the convergence objective results in more favourable aid intensity rates for convergence areas.

The convergence regions in the UK are:

(i) Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly;

(ii) West Wales and the Valleys; and

(iii) Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

The total EFF budget allocated to convergence and non-convergence regions is shown in table 2. A summary of spend to 31 December 2010 is included in table 3.

*Table 2: Summary of European Fisheries Fund budgets allocated to devolved Administrations, by convergence and non-convergence regions*

| | | | | | | | *€000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* | *2013* | *Total* |
| ***England*** | | | | | | | |
| Convergence | 1,728 | 1,728 | 1,728 | 1,728 | 1,728 | 1,728 | 10,368 |
| Non-convergence | 6,259 | 6,259 | 6,259 | 6,259 | 6,259 | 6,259 | 37,554 |
| Total | 7,987 | 7,987 | 7,987 | 7,987 | 7,987 | 7,987 | 47,922 |
| ***Scotland*** | | | | | | | |
| Convergence | 2,937 | 2,937 | 2,937 | 2,937 | 2,937 | 2,937 | 17,622 |
| Non-convergence | 6,253 | 6,253 | 6,253 | 6,253 | 6,253 | 6,253 | 37,518 |
| Total | 9,190 | 9,190 | 9,190 | 9,190 | 9,190 | 9,190 | 55,140 |
| ***Wales*** | | | | | | | |
| Convergence | 2,527 | 2,527 | 2,527 | 2,527 | 2,527 | 2,527 | 15,162 |
| Non-convergence | 250 | 250 | 250 | 250 | 250 | 250 | 1,500 |
| Total | 2,777 | 2,777 | 2,777 | 2,777 | 2,777 | 2,777 | 16,662 |
| ***Northern Ireland*** | | | | | | | |
| Convergence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non-convergence | 3,016 | 3,016 | 3,016 | 3,016 | 3,016 | 3,016 | 18,096 |
| Total | 3,016 | 3,016 | 3,016 | 3,016 | 3,016 | 3,016 | 18,096 |

*Note:*
The budget is profiled in calendar years.

*Table 3: Summary of European Fisheries Fund spend to 31 December 2010 by devolved Administrations, covering convergence and non-convergence regions*

| | | | | | *€000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *Total* |
| ***England*** | | | | | |
| Convergence | 0 | 371 | 234 | 713 | 1,318 |
| Non-convergence | 0 | 2,459 | 4,019 | 2,326 | 8,804 |
| Total | 0 | 2,830 | 4,253 | 3,039 | 10,122 |
| ***Scotland*** | | | | | |
| Convergence | 0 | 1,525 | 3,770 | 3,802 | 9,097 |
| Non-convergence | 0 | 963 | 6,660 | 5,609 | 13,232 |
| Total | 0 | 2,488 | 10,430 | 9,411 | 22,329 |
| ***Wales*** | | | | | |
| Convergence | 0 | 0 | 276 | 495 | 771 |
| Non-convergence | 0 | 0 | 79 | 87 | 166 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 355 | 582 | 937 |

*Table 3: Summary of European Fisheries Fund spend to 31 December 2010 by devolved Administrations, covering convergence and non-convergence regions*

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | €000<br>Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Northern Ireland* | | | | | |
| Convergence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non-convergence | 0 | 30 | 754 | 591 | 1,375 |
| Total | 0 | 30 | 754 | 591 | 1,375 |

*Note:*
2011 figures reflect expenditure incurred to 31 October 2011. The table reflects expenditure incurred in calendar years.

### *(c) Rural Development Programme*

Table 4 as follows sets out the total expenditure figures for the 2007-13 Rural Development Programmes.

*Table 4: Rural Development Programme expenditure*

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | £ million/pa<br>2010 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 214 | 288 | 411 | 489 |
| Scotland | 12 | 137 | 98 | 165 |
| Wales | 1 | 78 | 63 | 84 |
| NI | 32 | 36 | 33 | 56 |
| Total | 259 | 539 | 605 | 794 |

Only figures for 2007 onwards are provided as previous years were made under a separate EU fund and are not readily available. The figures have been established by converting EU amounts declared to the Commission at an average exchange rate for each EU financial year.

## Animal Feed

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to increase the usage of permissible waste food products in animal feed by UK livestock farmers since March 2011. [87459]

**Mr Paice:** Certain waste retail and factory food (e.g. vegetables, bread, cakes, biscuits) can be fed to livestock if it comes from premises with appropriate separation procedures to prevent any contact with animal by-products such as meat and fish, and we have been working with supermarkets and feed businesses to ensure this can be done safely.

However, under EU legislation, both ruminant and non-ruminant farm animals may not be fed catering waste. The practice of feeding catering waste to livestock was banned in the UK and then the rest of the EU following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2001. The ban stayed in place following a recent revision of the EU animal by-products regulations because it was recognised that the disease risks remain.

The Government are keeping their position on feeding of catering waste under review, and further examination of the scientific evidence base is important to ensure that our policy is founded on strong evidence. DEFRA is currently funding a review of the available evidence on the benefits and risks of using food waste in animal feed. This desk-based study is being conducted by the Food and Environment Research Agency. We commissioned this study in May this year and it is due to report in May 2012.

## Animal Welfare: Circuses

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to address any difficulties associated with the implementation of common animal welfare and public safety standards to a range of sites used by touring circuses in the UK. [87547]

**Mr Paice:** We are proposing to introduce a new licensing regime to promote animal welfare standards at those travelling circuses in England that use wild animal acts. It will be the responsibility of each circus to maintain those standards at each site it visits in England. Public safety standards are covered by other regulatory regimes.

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with regard to her Department's development of a licensing regime for the use of wild animals in circuses, whether she has received evidence to indicate that the welfare needs of wild animals can be met in a circus environment. [88901]

**Mr Paice:** Since the 2007 Radford report, which examined the available evidence then on the welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses, we have not seen any new scientific evidence that would support the argument that circuses, by their very nature, cannot meet the welfare needs of wild animals. The Radford report found that there was little evidence to demonstrate that the welfare of animals kept in travelling circuses is any better or worse than that of animals kept in other captive environments. As there are already licensing regimes in place that secure the welfare needs of the same species of animals in other captive environments, we are satisfied that it will be possible to introduce a set of enforceable welfare standards that will ensure that wild animals in travelling circuses are provided with an environment that provides for each animal's welfare needs.

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the consequences of the upholding of the ban on the use of wild animals in circuses by the Austrian Constitutional Court for her Department's progress towards the introduction of such a ban in the UK. [88939]

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the recent decision by the Austrian Constitutional Court, when she expects to make progress on banning of wild animals in circuses. [88940]

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1348, on Animal welfare: circuses, what steps she plans to take following the ruling of the Austrian Constitutional Court on the use of wild animals in circuses. [89081]

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 581, whether she has received legal advice on a ban on wild animals in circuses following the ruling of the Austrian Constitutional Court of 1 December 2011; and if she will make a statement. [89115]

**Mr Paice:** The judgment of the Austrian Constitutional Court was published on 21 December 2011 and we are considering its relevance to the legal position here.

### British Waterways: Pensions

**Martin Vickers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the current pension liability of British Waterways is; and whether it will be transferred to the Canal & River Trust. [89014]

**Richard Benyon:** The last triennial valuation of the British Waterways pension fund was carried out by the Scheme Actuary on 31 March 2010. The actuarial valuation of the British Waterways Pension Fund pension deficit was £65.6 million. No formal valuation has been prepared since March 2010, although estimated updates have been prepared by the Scheme Actuary for the pension fund trustees.

The Government are negotiating a long-term funding agreement with the trustees of the Canal & River Trust (CRT). Those negotiations are considering a range of issues which could impact on funding to maintain the canal network, including future liabilities arising from CRT's pension arrangements.

The outcome of the negotiations will be announced before the Government lays the necessary order under the Public Bodies Act to transfer British Waterways' functions to CRT.

### Cattle: Transport

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the backlog of cattle movements following the introduction of the new Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency cattle movement computer system. [83217]

**Mr Paice:** The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency's (AHVLA) IT system (SAM) is used to record the location and disease status of livestock in Great Britain.

SAM now enables the AHVLA to record information relating to TB testing. There were issues with the system that resulted in delays inputting TB test chart data in several regions and some TB reactor animals in the Midlands and South West Region not being removed within the 10 day target.

The AHVLA has put in place measures to address this issue and is continuing to monitor the situation.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of proposed reform of the common agricultural policy on tenant farmers under the stewardship level schemes. [88933]

**Mr Paice:** At this early stage in the common agricultural policy reform negotiation process, it is not possible to assess with any degree of accuracy the likely impact on tenant farmers with Entry Level Stewardship agreements.

I have however pledged to do everything possible to make sure farmers are not disadvantaged because they have been ahead of the game on environmental management (such as having an Entry Level Stewardship agreement). If changes do have to be made to these agreements, we will want to make sure that farmers will be able to opt out without penalty.

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* those bodies for which her Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if she will make a statement. [88597]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA currently has no plans for specific activities to mark the UN Year of the Co-operative.

### Services: Social Value

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if she will make a statement. [85656]

**Richard Benyon:** UK public procurement policy is to award contracts on the basis of value for money, which means the optimum combination of cost and quality over the lifetime of the project. Sustainability is achieved by using Government Buying Standards within tenders. These standards are developed on the basis of rigorous cost-benefit analysis and seek to deliver value for money over the lifetime of a product or service.

Public sector procurers are required to assess value for money from the perspective of the contracting authority using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract, including compliance with the published specification. Wider socio-economic benefits that do not accrue to the contracting authority cannot be taken into account at tender evaluation stage if they do not relate to the subject matter of a contract from the point of view of the contracting authority.

### Dredging

**Martin Vickers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of dredging works which will not have been completed at the proposed time of transfer of British Waterways' canals and rivers to the Canal & River Trust. [89013]

**Richard Benyon:** Dredging is an operational matter for British Waterways (BW) and it applies a risk-based prioritisation to its maintenance expenditure. The Government require BW to operate and maintain waterways to standards that reflect use and prospects of use.

BW estimates that the cost of clearing the current backlog of dredging would be approximately £40 million. BW has not set a time scale for dealing with the dredging backlog because it is subject to BW's need to prioritise expenditure on its major infrastructure assets and therefore it is not possible to confirm which dredging works will remain outstanding when the charity is vested. However, BW prioritises dredging at locations that cause particular boating constraints.

Once BW's assets and functions are transferred to the Canal & River Trust, it will be a matter for the trust to prioritise expenditure on the operation and maintenance of the waterways.

## Flood and Water Management Act 2010

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to implement section 45 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. [89198]

**Richard Benyon:** We will shortly be consulting on draft regulations specifying the details to be provided to the water and sewage undertakers under section 45 of the Act. We will also consult on an alternative, non-regulatory option. We will take appropriate next steps in response to the outcome of the consultation.

## Water Charges: South West

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the autumn statement, from what source funding for the £50 discount to the annual water bill of each South West Water customer will be drawn; and by what mechanisms the funding will be disbursed. [88318]

**Richard Benyon:** In the autumn statement 2011, the Government announced:

> "Households in the South West face by far the highest water bills in the country. The Government has decided to fund South West Water to enable it to cut bills by £50 per year for all household customers."

Legislation will be required to enable Government to make the payment so this is subject to the necessary legislation passing through Parliament.

The scheme will commence in 2013 and for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 this will be funded by a call on the HM Treasury Reserve. After this spending review, from 2015-16 onwards, the payment will be funded through DEFRA's budget (the Departmental Expenditure Limit set by HM Treasury).

DEFRA will make a payment to South West Water on the basis of a clear agreement that South West Water will reduce each household customer's bill by £50. The administration of the scheme will be undertaken by South West Water. This deduction will be shown in the customer's bill.

## Water: Meters

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to ensure that water meters are produced to a satisfactory standard. [88997]

**Richard Benyon:** The water fittings regulations are national requirements for the design, installation and maintenance of plumbing systems, water fittings and water-using appliances. The Water Regulations Advisory Scheme aims to develop criteria for testing materials and fittings, to assess the results of the testing of materials and fittings, to determine their compliance with the regulations specifications, and to publish up-to-date lists of satisfactory materials and fittings in the scheme's water fittings and materials directory.

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints Ofwat has received on defective water meters. [88998]

**Richard Benyon:** Ofwat received 215 meter-related written inquiries and complaints between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011. Ofwat does not specifically record how many of its meter-related contacts relate to defective water meters.

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to make providers responsible for the financial cost of replacing water meters. [88999]

**Richard Benyon:** Under the law, household customers currently have the right to opt to pay for their water on a metered basis and have a meter installed with no installation charge. If a meter is defective or reaches the end of its lifetime, the water company will replace or repair it with no cost to the individual customer.

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to increase the number of water companies introducing compulsory meter programmes. [89199]

**Richard Benyon:** Under the law, household customers currently have the right to opt to pay for their water on a metered basis and have a meter installed with no installation charge. Their right to remain charged on an unmeasured basis (by rateable value) can be set aside and they can be compulsorily charged by a meter where the Secretary of State designates their water company area as one of "serious water stress" and where the company has included a programme of metering in their water resource management plan.

The Secretary of State, after consulting the Environment Agency, can determine all or part of a water company's area to be an area of serious water stress, where the Secretary of State considers that:

> (a) the current household demand for water in that area is a high proportion of the current effective rainfall which is available to meet that demand; or
>
> (b) the future household demand for water in that area is likely to be a high proportion of the effective rainfall which is likely to be available to meet that demand.

In 2007, the then Secretary of State designated some water company areas as being seriously water stressed. This means that if those companies include a programme of metering in their water resource management plan, they are able to roll out universal metering programmes. Currently, two companies in areas of serious water stress, Southern Water and South East Water, are doing so.

During the next water resource management planning round the Government will reflect on the latest evidence to review the areas designated as water stressed.

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on a national roll-out of smart water meters. [89608]

**Richard Benyon:** Most households in England and Wales are charged for water and sewerage on the basis of the rateable value of their home rather than the amount of water they use, with only 37% of households currently charged for their volumetric use. The Government recognise that metering can have advantages for customers and is a fair way of charging for water. It also provides a direct incentive to reduce water usage. However, the costs and benefits of increasing levels of water metering to help reduce demand will vary from region to region. Because of these complexities, the recently published water White Paper, "Water for Life", explained that the Government will not impose a blanket approach to metering across the country. We believe that water companies are best placed to find the appropriate local solution in discussion with their customers.

The Government recognise that smart or intelligent water meters can offer further benefits for customers. Ofwat have established a Smart Metering Advisory Group which brings together the Government, industry and regulators. The group is exploring the business case for smart metering and an understanding of the potential benefits to customers. We will look to companies to demonstrate the business case for implementation with the agreement of their customers.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Times of Sittings

**John Mann:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment he has made of the possible cost saving of bringing forward sittings of the House by two hours on each day. [88921]

**Sir George Young:** I have made no such assessment. The main cost effects of any changes to sitting hours are likely to fall within the responsibilities of the House of Commons Commission and the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I look forward to considering the evidence received by the Procedure Committee during its current inquiry on sittings of the house and the parliamentary calendar on this and other matters, and to giving oral evidence to the committee in due course.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### British Nationality: English Language

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the citizenship data tables in Immigration Statistics April-June 2011, table cz.09, on refusals of citizenship by reason, if she will give the details of the language threshold that those who were rejected for language reasons failed to obtain. [89745]

**Damian Green:** A person applying for naturalisation as a British citizen is required to have sufficient knowledge of language and of life in the United Kingdom. This can be demonstrated by either passing the Life in the UK Test, or by attending and making relevant progress on an English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) course which uses the stipulated citizenship-based materials and which is delivered by an accredited institution.

ESOL courses are normally taken by those whose English is at ESOL Entry Level two or below. The Life in the UK test is intended for those whose English is equivalent to or better than ESOL Entry Level three or above.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding her Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in her Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding she plans to allocate in 2012-13; [89143]

(2) how many apprentices were employed by her Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships her Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89212]

**Damian Green:** No apprentices were recruited to the Department during the periods in question and therefore no funding was allocated to sponsor apprenticeships. Funding has not been specifically allocated for apprenticeships in 2012-13. The Department will, however, provide the necessary funding for apprentices as suitable opportunities to recruit them arise.

Due to the recruitment freeze in the civil service, there has been limited opportunity to employ apprentices. None were externally recruited by the Department during the periods in question. The Department plans to introduce schemes when the freeze ends and make best use of apprenticeships as suitable opportunities arise.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines her Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89381]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office has not issued guidelines to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns.

## Deportation

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were removed from the UK in each *(a)* week and *(b)* month in each of the last five years. [89923]

**Damian Green:** The following table shows the total number of removals and voluntarily departures from the UK in each month from January 2007 to September 2011.

*Monthly total removals and voluntary departures[1, 2], January 2007 to September 2011*

| | *Number of departures Grand total* |
|---|---|
| *2007* | |
| January | 5,038 |
| February | 4,782 |
| March | 5,156 |
| April | 4,765 |
| May | 5,407 |
| June | 5,220 |
| July | 5,173 |
| August | 5,517 |
| September | 5,453 |
| October | 5,433 |
| November | 5,775 |
| December | 5,648 |
| Total 2007 | 63,367 |
| *2008* | |
| January | 5,751 |
| February | 5,334 |
| March | 6,067 |
| April | 5,234 |
| May | 5,275 |
| June | 5,422 |
| July | 5,693 |
| August | 5,852 |
| September | 6,533 |
| October | 5,582 |
| November | 5,724 |
| December | 5,514 |
| Total 2008 | 67,981 |
| *2009* | |
| January | 5,544 |
| February | 5,133 |
| March | 5,701 |
| April | 5,285 |
| May | 5,455 |
| June | 5,604 |
| July | 5,828 |
| August | 5,769 |
| September | 6,109 |
| October | 5,695 |
| November | 5,729 |
| December | 5,362 |
| Total 2009 | 67,214 |
| *2010* | |
| January[3] | 5,429 |
| February[3] | 5,237 |
| March[3] | 5,349 |
| April[3] | 4,404 |
| May[3] | 5,355 |
| June[3] | 5,185 |
| July[3] | 5,052 |
| August[3] | 5,117 |
| September[3] | 5,092 |
| October[3] | 4,904 |
| November[3] | 5,113 |
| December[3] | 4,007 |
| Total 2010[3] | 60,244 |
| *2011* | |
| January[3] | 4,588 |
| February[3] | 4,538 |
| March[3] | 5,098 |
| April[3] | 3,576 |
| May[3] | 3,772 |
| June[3] | 4,040 |
| July[3] | 4,290 |
| August[3] | 4,493 |
| September[3] | 4,470 |
| January to September 2011[3] | 38,865 |

[1] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[2] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by Refugee Action from April 2011 (previously run by the International Organisation for Migration) and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[3] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

The available published data for removals from the UK are collated and verified monthly and not weekly. Therefore, only monthly figures are provided for the last five calendar years.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: July-September 2011, tables rv.01 to rv.08, from the Library of the House and from the Home Office science, research and statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Data for October 2011 onwards are not yet available, but quarterly data for October to December 2011 will be published as part of the regular Home Office publication scheme on 23 February.

## Detention Centres: Children

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women detained for immigration purposes in 2011 *(a)* had children living in the UK and *(b)* were separated from their children during their detention; and what arrangements there are for such separated children to maintain contact with their mothers. [88959]

**Damian Green:** The information sought is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and can be obtained only through examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency has a policy of not separating parents from children although it will sometimes have to deal with circumstances in which such a separation has already taken place. Separation is always in exceptional circumstances and only after full consideration has been given to possible alternatives. A key consideration is to ensure that no child is left unaccompanied by a responsible adult/carer.

In cases where a parent detained in an immigration removal centre has a child in the community, the UK Border Agency will seek to facilitate contact between the parent and child, subject to the wishes of the family, and in liaison with the local authority where appropriate.

### Detention Centres: Pregnant Women

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many pregnant women were detained for immigration purposes in 2011 for *(a)* up to six weeks, *(b)* more than six weeks and *(c)* more than three months; [88958]

(2) how many pregnant women detained for immigration purposes have been released in the late stages of pregnancy as a consequence of that pregnancy. [89195]

**Damian Green:** If a pregnant woman chooses to inform the UK Border Agency of her condition, the detail would be held on her medical file which is confidential between patient and doctor. The UK Border Agency does not hold such information centrally.

The UK Border Agency's published guidance makes clear that pregnant women should not normally be detained. The exceptions to this general position are where removal is imminent and medical advice does not suggest confinement before the due removal date would be harmful or, for pregnant women of less than 24 weeks gestation, at Yarl's Wood as part of a fast-track asylum process.

### Embassies: Tehran

**Sir Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance is available to those who have submitted documentation to the British Embassy in Tehran to enable them to travel to the UK; and if she will make a statement. [89335]

**Damian Green:** With the help of neighbouring German, Australian and Canadian missions, the vast majority of passports retrieved from the British Visa Section on 19 and 20 December have been returned to their holders.

Those applications that had been refused in the processing hub in Abu Dhabi prior to the closure of the Visa Section in Tehran were informed of the decision when they collected their documents in Tehran from the neighbouring friendly mission.

Those applicants who were granted visas but had not yet had the visa issued in Tehran were advised to bring their passports to Abu Dhabi for issue. Those who were refused in Abu Dhabi were sent a refusal notice by e-mail.

Once clear which passports had been collected and which applicants did not wish to pursue their applications, consideration of outstanding applications began on 8 January. Applicants who are refused will have the refusal notice e-mailed to them. Applicants who are issued visas will be advised to travel to the UAE at their own cost to submit their passport for visa issuance.

### EU Immigration

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the proposed directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a member state and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a member state; what legislative changes will be required to implement this directive; what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the directive; and if she will make a statement. [89747]

**Damian Green:** The United Kingdom has not opted into this directive and is not therefore required to implement it.

### European Commission: Legislation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the regulations her Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88972]

**James Brokenshire:** No provisions of Home Office primary legislation which was brought into force in 2010 or 2011 implemented EU measures originally proposed by the European Commission. Three statutory instruments entered into force in 2010, and two in 2011, as a result of the need to implement EU measures originally proposed by the European Commission. Administrative means were used once, in 2011.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of country business plans in tackling human trafficking. [89333]

**Damian Green:** Country business plans cover financial years, April to March, and are formally reviewed at the mid-year point (October). Foreign Office posts in priority countries have been asked to ensure that the objectives of the human trafficking strategy are reflected in their business plans and work to do this is currently ongoing.

### Human Trafficking: Sexual Offences

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received of *(a)* attempts by individuals to obtain protection money from women sex workers and *(b)* women sex workers being threatened with (i) eviction from their premises and (ii) arrest on the grounds that they were working from a brothel. [88793]

**Lynne Featherstone:** No such reports have been received. We are committed to tackling the harm and exploitation that can be associated with prostitution. Controlling prostitution for gain and blackmail are serious offences to which the police are best placed to respond to at a local level.

The Home Office recently published a Review of Effective Practice in Responding to Prostitution, developed in consultation with the police and partners who support people involved in prostitution. The effective practice is designed to empower local authorities and partners to develop effective local responses to issues related to prostitution, including improving the safety of prostitutes and their confidence to report crimes to the police.

### Independent Police Complaints Commission

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints there were to the Independent Police Complaints Commission in 2011, by constabulary. [88844]

**Nick Herbert:** The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for the publication of annual statistics relating to complaints about the police in England and Wales. The 2010-11 report was published in December 2011 and is available on the IPCC website. Since April 2009, the IPCC has collected data from police forces every quarter and publishes quarterly force bulletins. These can also be found on the IPCC website at:

www.ipcc.gov.uk

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider replacing the Independent Police Complaints Commission with a new independent oversight body. [88954]

**Nick Herbert:** The Government have no plans to replace the Independent Police Complaints Commission with a new independent oversight body.

### Members: Correspondence

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to question *(a)* 79849, *(b)* 79886, *(c)* 79887, *(d)* 79888 and *(e)* 79889 tabled on 7 November for answer on 11 November. [82509]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answers of *(a)* 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 608W, *(b)* 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 157W, *(c)* 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 610W, *(d)* 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 609W, and *(e)* 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 610W.

### Stephen Lawrence

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with Scotland Yard on lessons learnt from the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. [89118]

**Nick Herbert:** The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has acknowledged publicly its failings in the original investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence and has been learning lessons from it for a number of years, particularly since Lord Macpherson's report of 1999. That report led the MPS to change fundamentally its approach to the investigation of murders. The force is to be commended on its continued commitment to investigating the Stephen Lawrence case and on the recent successful prosecution of two people found guilty of his murder. Home Office Ministers and officials will encourage and work with the MPS and other forces, in order to learn any lessons that this recent successful prosecution has for other cases.

### Telecommunications: Databases

**Stephen McPartland:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the Government's commitment in section 3 of the coalition agreement to end the storage of internet and email records without good reason. [88929]

**James Brokenshire:** The Strategic Defence and Security Review assessed that communications data and lawful interception capabilities are vital for counter-terrorism and fighting serious organised crime. It highlighted the importance of preserving the capabilities of law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies as technology changes. The Government will legislate to ensure the maintenance of these capabilities; this will be compatible with the Government's approach to civil liberties. The Home Office Structural Reform Plan committed to publish proposals for the storage of internet and email records. Details will be announced in due course.

### UK Border Agency: Sick Leave

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the level of sickness absence was for UK Border Agency staff at each airport in the last year. [89562]

**Damian Green:** For operational and security reasons the UK Border Force only publishes resource data at a regional level.

For the period of 1 January to 31 December 2011, the average number of working days lost due to sickness was 7.61 days per employee for Border Force airports. This figure includes long-term sickness.

## TRANSPORT

### A1

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, what the total planned public expenditure on the granted development consent to a scheme to improve the A1 at Elkesley is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project. [88499]

**Norman Baker:** The following table shows the total planned public expenditure on the granted development consent to a scheme to improve the A1 at Elkesley. These figures include Nottinghamshire county council's contribution of £250,000 in 2012-13.

| *Financial year* | *Actuals* | *Forecast* | £<br>*Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2011-12 | 140,710.00 | 85,000.00 | 225,710.00 |
| 2012-13 | — | 1,916,722.23 | 1,916,722.23 |
| 2013-14 | — | 5,787,998.28 | 5,787,998.28 |
| 2014-15 | — | 1,212,004.65 | 1,212,004.65 |
| 2015-16 | — | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| 2016-17 | — | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Total | 140,710.00 | 9,011,725.16 | 9,152,435.16 |

The estimated completion date is late 2014.

### A64

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will designate work to upgrade the A64 between Scarborough, Malton and York as a major infrastructure project qualifying as one of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's growth and job creation projects. [90132]

**Mike Penning:** The autumn statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 29 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 799-810, identified two current Highways Agency major road schemes which will see their delivery accelerated, and a further six schemes which will be brought forward for delivery in this spending review period.

These schemes were all selected because they are able to be accelerated to start construction and make significant progress in the next three years, and will therefore make the earliest possible contribution to stimulating economic growth.

Proposals to improve the A64 from York to Scarborough had previously not been prioritised as part of the regional funding allocation process; therefore the Department did not have a scheme to consider for accelerated delivery in this spending review period as part of the Growth Review.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with local businesses along the route of the A64 between Scarborough, Malton and York on the cost and disruption caused to businesses of congestion on the road. [90133]

**Mike Penning:** The Highways Agency, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not held any recent discussions with local businesses along the route of the A64 between Scarborough and York with regard to any associated disruption caused by congestion on the strategic road network.

The agency continues, through daily operation and maintenance of the network, and future strategic network planning, to promote economic and social growth aspirations along the A64 while actively aiming to improve journey time reliability and reduce congestion.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the congestion on the A64 on the local economy; and if she will make a statement. [90134]

**Mike Penning:** The Highways Agency, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not made any assessment of the impact on the local economy due to congestion on the A64.

An A64 Connectivity Study was commissioned by North Yorkshire county council in partnership with other stakeholders, including the Highways Agency, and published in 2011. The study identifies a range of short, medium and long-term interventions to meet the strategic transport needs of the area reflecting the wider economic, social and environmental policies that underpin planned growth to 2026.

The study considered that improved connectivity, especially better journey time reliability, on the A64 corridor would have positive economic impacts. On the A64 congestion is largely attributable to incidents which impact journey time reliability. The agency is working to both reduce the number of incidents on the network, and where incidents do occur, working closely with the police, fire and rescue and other emergency services to clear up the incidents and open the road as quickly as possible.

The A64 Connectivity Study is being used by the agency to inform further studies and future potential schemes on the A64 specifically focused on improving journey time reliability, maintaining a safe road network and ensuring that its customers remain well informed.

### Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likelihood of securing an agreement at global level through the International Civil Aviation Organisation on a global emissions trading scheme to address international aviation emissions. [89437]

**Mrs Villiers:** The UK government remains committed to addressing emissions from international aviation and believes that the most effective way of doing this is through a binding global agreement supported by market-based measures.

Limited progress has been made in recent years towards securing an agreement on a global emissions trading scheme. The UK remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached and we will continue to push for this in international fora such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

In the meantime and in the absence of a global system, the UK supports the inclusion of aviation in the European Union Emissions Trading system which came into effect on 1 January 2012.

### Aviation: Fuels

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the level of fuel wastage caused by planes circling *(a)* Luton, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Stansted, *(d)* Bristol, *(e)* Heathrow, *(f)* Manchester, *(g)* Southampton, *(h)* London City, *(i)* Cardiff and *(j)* Exeter airport. [89919]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government have not made any such estimates.

NATS, the UK's en-route air traffic service provider, may be able to provide some relevant information. Its contact address is: The Chief Executive, NATS, 4000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hants P015 7FL.

### Aviation: Mergers

**Mr David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the *(a)* domestic and *(b)* European regulatory regimes in ensuring consideration is given to the effect on routes of airline mergers and takeovers. [89474]

**Mrs Villiers:** None. Mergers are regulated on the basis of whether or not they substantially lessen competition in markets. This test is applied in all mergers by the independent competition authorities, who have discretion to include any relevant criteria appropriate to determine whether or not a merger substantially lessens competition. Previous merger investigations in the airline sector by both the UK and EU competition authorities have considered effects on airline routes.

### Aviation: Scotland

**Mr David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has assessed any change in prices for flights between Glasgow and Heathrow since British Airways became the only airline servicing the route. [89473]

**Mrs Villiers:** No such assessment has been made.

**Mr David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have flown between London airports other than Heathrow and *(a)* Edinburgh, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Aberdeen in each of the last three years. [89529]

**Mrs Villiers:** The figures requested are given in the following table.

*Number of passengers flying between Gatwick, London City, Luton or Stansted and selected Scottish airports, 2008-10*

*Million*

| | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Edinburgh | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| Glasgow | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| Prestwick | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Total | 3.9 | 3.5 | 3.1 |

### BMI

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the proposed sale of BMI to International Airlines Group on aviation links between Scotland and London; [89153]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Scottish Government on future aviation links between Scotland and London following the proposed sale of BMI to International Airlines Group. [89154]

**Mrs Villiers:** I would refer the hon. Member to my written answer given on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 647W, to the hon. Member for Midlothian (Mr Hamilton) and the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick) in relation to the proposed sale of the airline BMI, and to my written answer given on 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1019W, again to the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse, in relation to aviation links between Scotland and London airports.

### Bus Services: Disability

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to increase access to bus services for disabled people *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Coventry. [88899]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* The Department for Transport continues to work to improve physical accessibility to public transport. The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR) require all new buses and coaches used to provide local or scheduled services and designed to carry more than 22 passengers to be accessible to disabled passengers.

All existing buses and coaches used to provide local or scheduled services will have to comply with PSVAR by end dates between 2015 and 2020, depending on vehicle type. At March 2011, 60% of all buses in Great Britain met the PSVAR requirements.

The Government are also committed to protecting the concessionary bus travel scheme, allowing free off-peak travel anywhere in England for older and eligible disabled passengers.

### Cycling: Accidents

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many children were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured while riding a bicycle in the last year for which figures are available. [89506]

**Mike Penning:** The information is available in table RAS30002 of "Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Main Results 2010" which has been published on the Department's website at:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/tables/ras30002.xls

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times her Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if she will make a statement. [88358]

**Norman Baker:** DfT(c), GCDA, MCA, VCA and VOSA have not used the services of a debt recovery company since May 2010.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has used the services of Optima Legal Services twice since May 2010.

Since May 2010 the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has used both Intercredit International Ltd and Philips Collection Services Ltd to collect continuous registration penalties on behalf of the agency. Around 30,000 cases are referred each month.

The Highways Agency has used the services of Effective Credit Collections Ltd since May 2010, on one occasion.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which her Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships she expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013. [88723]

**Norman Baker:** This Department employed apprentices in one public body, Trinity House Lighthouse Service, who employed three apprentices between April 2010 and March 2011 and April 2011 and December 2011. Three apprentices are expected to be employed between January 2012 to March 2012 and April 2012 to March 2013. Salaries were paid out of the General Lighthouse Fund.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which her Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88724]

**Norman Baker:** There has been no funding from the public purse allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in public bodies which this Department is responsible for.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what equality impact assessments her Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88590]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport considers equality issues in exercising its functions, both to comply with equality legislation and to ensure it understands how its activities will affect different people. It provides information about this consideration in various ways. In the specified period, this information was sometimes published in the form of an equality impact assessment, although there is no legal requirement to produce such a document.

Over 50 equality impact assessments have been carried out across the Department and its agencies since May 2010. These are available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

### Food Procurement

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [86994]

**Norman Baker:** I regret that this information is not centrally recorded in all areas of this Department, and so no meaningful figure is available.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speechwriters her Department employs at each pay grade. [89396]

**Norman Baker:** The central Department for Transport currently employs two civil servants (DFT Pay Band 7 and 6) to write speeches and articles for the four DFT Ministers.

As well as the two dedicated speechwriters within the Communication Directorate, policy officials occasionally draft or contribute to ministerial speeches, particularly parliamentary speeches. The Department's special advisers may also contribute to speeches when required. And naturally, Ministers produce much of the material themselves.

None of DFT's seven Executive Agencies employ speechwriters.

### Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87978]

**Norman Baker:** The central Department and its seven Executive agencies have not engaged recruitment agencies since May 2010. All recruitment is handled by an internal centralised resource.

### Redundancy

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in her Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87976]

**Norman Baker:** The amount of redundancy pay paid to civil servants in the Department for Transport in the month of September, October and November 2011 is shown in the following table.

| | | | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Business unit* | *September 2011* | *October 2011* | *November 2011* |
| Department for Transport (Centre) | 825,889 | 32,021 | 0 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 75,946 | 103,867 | 0 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 0 | 5,731 | 12,464 |

The remaining DFT agencies have not made redundancy payments in the above periods.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many temporary staff were recruited to her Department between September and November 2011. [87977]

**Norman Baker:** The central Department and its seven Executive agencies have recruited 28 temporary staff between September and November 2011.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to ensure that the effectiveness of the enforcement activities of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) will not be reduced as a result of her Department's proposals for the centralisation of DVLA services. [89176]

**Mike Penning:** DVLA has a clear commitment to ensure that enforcement activities remain at their present level of effectiveness. DVLA will work with stakeholders to fully understand potential impacts and how these can be effectively managed if the proposals are taken forward.

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effect of proposals to close Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency regional enforcement offices on levels of unemployment in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK. [89177]

**Mike Penning:** No specific assessment has been completed. I can add that no decision about closure has yet been made. The results of the current consultation will be used to inform work looking at changes to DVLA services including the potential closure of local offices. This process will include an economic assessment as well as work to avoid or reduce redundancies and mitigate the consequences of any that are necessary.

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish the result of the Government's consultation entitled Transforming DVLA Services. [89185]

**Mike Penning:** We aim to publish a summary of responses and announce our future plans as soon as possible after the consultation has closed. Although this is dependent on the number of responses received and the analysis required.

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of providing front office counter services through intermediaries as part of her proposals to centralise Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency services. [89186]

**Mike Penning:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency already has a contract in place with an intermediary to provide vehicle re-licensing and some driver licensing services. This contract, currently valued at £41 million per annum, is held by the Post Office and has been in place since 1 April 2007. It will come to an end in March 2013. DVLA is currently engaged in an EU compliant commercial procurement for a range of front office counter services to replace it. The value of the new contract will ultimately be determined through the procurement and negotiation process.

We are extending the scope of the current contract in a number of ways to provide more secure and convenient services to the public in the future. For vehicle licensing services, these extensions have been accorded with initial cost estimates of around £4 million for joint development and then running costs of just over £1 million a year, although these will of course be subject to refinement and downwards competitive pressure through the procurement and negotiation processes.

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the figures her Department used to calculate the estimated savings to the public purse from centralising Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency services. [89187]

**Mike Penning:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has estimated annual savings to the public purse of £28 million commencing in the financial year 2014-15. The following table shows how the estimated savings have been calculated:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| *Total benefits* | 39.3 |
| Staffing | 28.7 |
| Accommodation | 8.9 |
| IT maintenance | 0.5 |
| Travel and subsistence | 1.2 |
| | |
| *Costs* | 11.0 |
| Staffing | 8.6 |
| Intermediaries | 2.3 |
| IT maintenance | 0.1 |
| | |
| *Net savings* | 28.3 |

These estimates are high level and have been based on a number of assumptions. These estimates will change and be refined as decisions are made following the conclusion of the public consultation.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effect of proposals to close DVLA regional offices on the economy of *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency. [88142]

**Mike Penning:** No specific assessment has been completed. I can add that no decisions about closure have yet been made. The results of the current consultation will be used to inform work looking at changes to DVLA services including the potential closure of local offices. Economic impacts will be considered as part of this process.

### Driving Under Influence: Rehabilitation

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 1004W, on driving under influence: rehabilitation, what evidence her Department used to support its proposals on new arrangements for drink drive rehabilitation courses. [89026]

**Mike Penning:** We have drawn on a variety of sources of evidence to support our proposals on new arrangements for drink drive rehabilitation courses. The principle driver for change came from the findings of the Transport Research Laboratory report (No. 613, 2004) referred to in paragraphs 18, 19 and 20 of the Driving Standards Agency's consultation paper 'New approval arrangements for drink-drive rehabilitation courses' of 9 November 2011.

The proposals were also based on independent audits commissioned by the Department for Transport throughout 2007-09 (referenced in the DSA consultation mentioned above, at Annex A para 10).

### Driving: Disability

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she intends to amend the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1997 following changes to disability living allowance to ensure that people with major mobility issues can drive from the age of 16 years. [88880]

**Mike Penning:** The Department for Work and Pensions are introducing changes to disability living allowance (DLA) as part of the Welfare Reform Bill. The intention is to replace DLA with a new cash benefit called the personal independence payment (PIP). Replacing DLA with PIP will require a change in driving licence legislation to allow people with major mobility issues to still be eligible to apply for a driving licence to drive a car at the age of 16. The necessary legislative change is currently being taken forward and will be aligned to the DWP introduction date for PIP.

### Driving: Eye Sight

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that Group 2 drivers meet the minimum visual requirements set out in EU directives 2006/126/EC and 2009/113/EC. [88934]

**Mike Penning:** Directive 2006/126/EEC was adopted in December 2006; its provisions will take effect on 19 January 2013. Directive 2009/113/EC amends this directive.

Group 2 drivers are currently required to have a medical examination, which includes an eye test, at first licence application, at the age of 45 and every five years until age the age of 65 when annual medicals are needed. They are also required by law to advise DVLA if they are unable to meet the required medical standards (including the minimum visual requirements) at any time.

From 19 January 2013 Group 2 drivers will still have to undergo a medical examination when they first apply for this entitlement. Licences will have an administrative validity period of five years.

This will mean that they will expire every five years from first application to age 45. A self-declaration of continuing compliance with the minimum medical standards for driving, including appropriate vision, will be required on each five year renewal. The arrangements from 45 onwards will remain unchanged.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the regulations her Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88977]

**Norman Baker:** No primary legislation that implements proposals by the European Commission was brought forward by this Department in either 2010 or 2011.

In 2010, 25 pieces of secondary legislation transposed EU obligations. In 2011, 28 pieces of secondary legislation transposed EU obligations.

Some EU obligations are implemented by administrative measures and it is assumed that these are the other means on which information is sought. That information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Heathrow Airport

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions her Department has had with Airport Coordination Ltd on changing the way take-off and landing slots at Heathrow airport are used by airlines to reduce congestion. [89357]

**Mrs Villiers:** The allocation of slots at Heathrow is governed by EU Law. The EU Slot Regulation includes a requirement for member states to ensure that independent airport slot co-ordinators are appointed to manage slot allocation at congested airports. Airport Coordination Ltd is the UK's independent co-ordinator.

The European Commission published its "Better Airports Package" on 30 November 2011, which includes a range of legislative proposals, including proposals to amend the EU Slot Regulation, which are intended to help boost capacity, reduce delays and promote quality at Europe's airports. The Department will be engaging with a range of stakeholders as these proposals are developed.

**Mark Menzies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has assessed the environment impact of aeroplanes circling Heathrow while awaiting a landing slot. [89496]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government have not undertaken any such assessment, but we support the Civil Aviation Authority's Future Airspace Strategy which aims to minimise significantly the need for aircraft to wait before landing at London's major airports.

**Mark Menzies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has estimated the average time an aircraft will circle Heathrow while awaiting a landing slot. [89497]

**Mrs Villiers:** According to NATS, the UK's en-route air traffic service provider, 53% of arrivals into Heathrow in 2010 were subject to holding with an average hold time per aircraft held of 8.3 minutes.

### Level Crossings

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will request Network Rail to publish all risk assessments in respect of level crossings; and what assessment she made of the level of transparency in the availability of such information. [89226]

**Mrs Villiers:** Risk assessments at level crossings are undertaken by Network Rail in order to satisfy their legal duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. That Act requires duty holders to record the significant findings of risk assessments and reduce risks so far as is reasonably practicable. Legislative standards also ensure that the risk assessment process is sufficient and suitable.

There is currently no legal obligation to publish those risk assessments but they are available for consideration by the Office of Rail Regulation.

However, Network Rail is currently revising their risk assessment process for level crossings. Their intention is that future process takes a more collaborative approach to risk assessment with assistance provided by local stakeholders such as the relevant local authorities, level crossing users and train operators. Network Rail will also consider requests on a case by case basis for access to existing risk assessments.

Network Rail is a private sector company and the Government's policy is to resist the expansion of burdens on companies. On this basis, we do not intend to request that Network Rail publishes all level crossing risk assessments. The Government welcome the fact, however, that Network Rail is taking steps to enhance their own transparency and is developing a voluntary publication scheme.

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of recent trends in the use by Network Rail of remote-controlled level crossings; what safety risk assessment has been undertaken on such crossings; and if she will assess any effects of such crossings on the level of pedestrian injuries. [89227]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department has made no assessment of these issues. In the first instance, risk assessment and the reduction of risks at level crossings so far as is reasonably practicable is a matter for the relevant duty holder. As such, the risk assessment process and determination of appropriate safety measures to be put in place, including equipment type, is an operational safety matter for Network Rail.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) monitors that Network Rail is meeting their health and safety duties at level crossings. The ORR, where it administers level crossing orders on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), may also contribute to the risk assessment of the type of equipment deployed at a specific location including remote-controlled (CCTV) type crossings.

CCTV controlled crossings are one of the safest crossing types in use and a breakdown of level crossing safety by crossing type, and user can be found in the RSSB Annual Safety Performance Report 2010/11, available at:

http://www.rssb.co.uk/SPR/REPORTS/Pages/AnnualSafetyPerformanceReport201011.aspx

The UK has one of the best level crossing records in Europe. A significant proportion of risk in this context results from public behaviour. Network Rail and the British Transport police have various programmes aimed at addressing this problem.

### M6

**David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with the M6 Toll Company on providing a direct link from the M54 to the toll road and the M6 northbound at no cost to the public purse. [90264]

**Mike Penning:** The statement of the then Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-179, "Investment in Highways and Local Transport Schemes" identified the M54/M6/M6 Toll Link road scheme as a 'future scheme' for potential construction in future spending review periods and as one of four schemes to be reviewed by the Highways Agency.

In conducting the review the Agency has looked again at the scheme options currently under consideration to ensure these remain the most appropriate. The business case for the scheme has also been revisited to ensure that it is as up to date as possible.

As part of the review a meeting was held between Department for Transport Officials and a representative of Midland Expressway Limited, the M6 Toll company, to discuss the scheme options for an M54/M6/M6 Toll Link Road and how these might be taken forward under an agreement made in 2006 between Macquarie European Infrastructure Limited and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Informed by the review, the Department for Transport is currently considering the allocation of development funding for the 'future schemes'. This would see investment in a small number of schemes to progress pre-construction work and thereby maintain a pipeline of major investment in the strategic road network. Any announcements will be made in due course.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 13 October and *(b)* 23 November 2011 regarding a constituent, Mr L Russell. [89100]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* I have now replied to my hon. Friend's letter, actually dated 11 October 2011. I am sorry that administrative pressures within the Department have delayed this reply until now. Ministers aim to reply speedily to correspondence and I have drawn the pressures within the system to the attention of the Permanent Secretary.

Unfortunately we have no records of receipt of the letter dated 23 November 2011. If the issues within this letter are not addressed by my response to your earlier letter please feel free to contact me direct.

### Motor Vehicles: Testing

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* motorcycles, *(b)* motor cars and *(c)* commercial vehicles were submitted for an MOT test in (i) the UK, (ii) England, (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iv) City of York in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many vehicles failed the test in each case. [88848]

**Mike Penning:** The number of MOT tests undertaken by test class and number of failures in (i) Great Britain, (ii) England, (iii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iv) City of York unitary authority during the calendar year 2010 are given in the following table:

| | *Tests undertaken* | *Fails* |
|---|---|---|
| *(i) Great Britain* | | |
| Motorcycles | 964,600 | 123,752 |
| Classes 3 and 4: Cars , vans and passenger vehicles with up to 12 seats | 26,421,628 | 8,037,505 |
| Private passenger vehicles with more than 12 seats | 49,045 | 13,539 |
| Goods vehicles between 3,000 and non-testable vehicles include mobile cranes, diggers and non-HGV trailers. Excludes emissions-only checks. | 589,261 | 239,613 |
| *(ii) England* | | |
| Motorcycles | 862,117 | 110,254 |
| Classes 3 and 4: Cars , vans and passenger vehicles with up to 12 seats | 22,881,777 | 6,803,314 |
| Private passenger vehicles with more than 12 seats | 41,393 | 11,332 |
| Goods vehicles between 3,000 and non-testable vehicles include mobile cranes, diggers and non-HGV trailers. Excludes emissions-only checks. | 511,400 | 205,005 |
| *(iii) Yorkshire and the Humber* | | |
| Motorcycles | 83,841 | 9,787 |
| Classes 3 and 4: Cars , vans and passenger vehicles with up to 12 seats | 2,155,793 | 712,357 |
| Private passenger vehicles with more than 12 seats | 5,037 | 2,519 |
| Goods vehicles between 3,000 and non-testable vehicles include mobile cranes, diggers and non-HGV trailers. Excludes emissions-only checks. | 52,114 | 23,867 |
| *(iv) City of York UA* | | |
| Motorcycles | 5,103 | 515 |
| Classes 3 and 4: Cars , vans and passenger vehicles with up to 12 seats | 80,269 | 24,479 |
| Private passenger vehicles with more than 12 seats | 98 | 41 |
| Goods vehicles between 3,000 and non-testable vehicles include mobile cranes, diggers and non-HGV trailers. Excludes emissions-only checks. | 1,641 | 620 |

MOT test results for Northern Ireland are not held by the Department.

MOT data are available in raw format from:

www.data.gov.uk

### Motorcycles: EU Law

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the EU member states where the wearing of motorcycle helmets is compulsory for users of motorbikes and mopeds. [90351]

**Mike Penning:** The Department does not keep detailed information on this. Many, if not all, EU countries do require helmets to be worn by motorcyclists, but some allow more flexibility for moped riders.

### Motorways: Safety

**Mr Nuttall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the criteria are which determine whether footbridges over motorways are covered for the purpose of preventing objects being thrown from them onto vehicles travelling on the motorway. [89977]

**Mike Penning:** The Highways Agency has published criteria for protection to be provided on the edge of new footbridges over motorways and they are described in Standard TD19/06—'Requirements for Road Restraint Systems' and in Standard BD 29/04—'Design Criteria for Footbridges'. These standards are publically available through the agency's website.

TD19/06 covers the criteria for the height and form of the parapet protection that must be provided along the edge of a footbridge, and is governed by the nature of the intended lawful use of the bridge, and whether it carries a footway, cycleway or bridleway. Where a new footbridge is being proposed, designers must consider and balance a range of issues such as cost, accessibility, safety and appearance, in developing the form and layout of the structure to encourage greater use and appreciation by the public.

Designers of new footbridges would need to consider risks and the potential for unlawful activities such as throwing objects on to passing vehicles. In such circumstances where there is an established high risk, BD 29/04 suggests that full or partial enclosures of the bridge may be considered. For existing footbridges a range of factors would be considered, some of which are covered in BD29/04.

The prevention of unlawful activities such as objects thrown from bridges is a policing matter. However, where there are significant risks or a high number of incidents at a particular location on the strategic road network in England, the Highways Agency has worked closely with the police, local community and other partners, and in the past has prepared educational packs which have proved to be effective. The Highways Agency has also arranged for visits to be made to schools and community groups to educate younger people as to the dangers and consequences of objects being thrown onto roads, and to prevent these incidents recurring.

### Northern Line: Expenditure

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, what the total planned public expenditure on the extension of the Northern line to Battersea is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project. [88502]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government announced their support for the extension of the Northern line to Battersea on 29 November 2011, subject to commitment by April 2013 from a developer to contribute to and develop the site. If an agreement is reached, the Government will consider allowing local borrowing against future receipts of community infrastructure levy (CIL) to support the extension. Given the commercial sensitivity of such an agreement, it would be inappropriate to pre-empt it with a detailed breakdown.

The final timetable of the extension of the Northern line to Battersea is contingent on a successful Transport Works Act Order application to the Department for Transport. Transport for London is planning to submit an application in 2012.

### Parking: Fees and Charges

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 497W, on parking: fees and charges, whether privately operated car parks are governed by any statutory provisions; and if she will make a statement. [89376]

**Norman Baker:** There is no statutory regulation relating specifically to private car parks. Private landowners are entitled to make such conditions for the use of their land as they see fit. However, consumer protection legislation exists to protect consumers from misleading information and unfair contract terms. For example, where signs for motorists in a car park are misleading, or other misleading or deceptive information is given (for example, tickets which look like local authority tickets) there may be a breach of the consumer protection legislation. Local authority trading standards services and the Office of Fair Trading can take enforcement action.

In the absence of a clear indication that a private landowner is content for parking to take place on his/her/its land, motorists should not park on it to avoid any risk of trespassing.

### Piers: Redcar and Cleveland

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will provide funding for an additional traditional pier in Redcar and Cleveland. [88829]

**Norman Baker:** We have not received a funding request for a traditional pier in Redcar and Cleveland and, taken at face value, it seems unlikely a project of this nature would meet transport objectives and provide value for money under a transport appraisal.

### Railways

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which rail companies have been provided with permanent access passes to her Department; and what the pass allocation is in each case. [R] [88079]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* Five passes have been issued to Directly Operated Railways Ltd which is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Transport.

### Regional Airports

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department plans to take to support regional airports; and if she will make a statement. [89037]

**Mrs Villiers:** We recognise the vital contributions regional airports make to local economies. The Government are currently developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation, which we will publish for consultation in spring 2012.

### River Thames: Bridges

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, what the total planned public expenditure on the extension of the new crossing across the Lower Thames is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project. [88501]

**Mike Penning:** It is too early to specify total planned public expenditure for the development of a new Lower Thames crossing. Our intention is that the new crossing should be privately financed. However we accept the need to incur some public expenditure in preparatory work, including the analysis required to review the location options. The cost of the review could be confirmed once procurement of it has concluded.

### Roads: Safety

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance she gives utility companies on the manner in which they leave the public highway after completing works. [89060]

**Norman Baker:** The Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways is a statutory Code of Practice which sets out the relevant standards. Compliance with the Specification is a requirement under section 71 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. In respect of England, the most recent (third) edition of the Specification came into operation on 1 October 2010.

### Shipping: Oil

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will review the level of liaison between relevant devolved authorities on the environmental effects arising from the recent transfer of oil between two cargo ships off the County Down coast for the purposes of preventing a similar problem from occurring in the future. [89448]

**Mike Penning:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) will shortly commence a review of the UK's National Contingency Plan (NCP) for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations. This periodic review will involve full consultation with UK interested parties, and will take account of lessons learnt from previous incidents in the UK and elsewhere. I have asked the MCA to take account of lessons learned from the forthcoming operational de-brief into the Genmar Companion incident.

### Swanley Railway Station

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date Swanley railway station was designated as the travel gateway for the 2012 Paralympic road cycling event at Brands Hatch. [89525]

**Mrs Villiers:** Brands Hatch was the last London 2012 venue to be announced in May 2011. As a result, transport plans and related publicity are only now being finalised.

In the preliminary planning stages for spectator transport service design, Swanley was seen as a preferred venue rail station. Earlier publications including a press release in July 2011 announcing the Swanley improvement programme made reference to this.

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Network Rail had discussions with the Olympic Delivery Authority prior to 1 January 2012 on the need to complete the improvements to Swanley railway station in time for the 2012 Paralympic road cycling event at Brands Hatch. [89526]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Olympic Delivery Authority continues to take a close interest in the development of all transport infrastructure works associated with London 2012, and has regularly discussed Swanley station with Network Rail. The initial development works undertaken for the scheme indicated a completion date of 15 August 2012.

Given the associated delivery risk with this date, a decision has been made to switch the venue station from Swanley to Sevenoaks, which already has step free access and excellent transport links.

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the improvements at Swanley railway station *(a)* were originally scheduled to (i) begin and (ii) be completed, *(b)* began and *(c)* are now expected to be completed. [89527]

**Norman Baker:** Works at Swanley station under the Access for All and National Stations Improvement programmes are due to start on site in July 2012 and be completed by April 2013. To allow the station to be used by spectators for the Paralympics, the work has been brought forward and will start in April this year and are due to be complete by the end of July this year.

### Transport: Merseyside

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, what the total planned public expenditure on the expansion of the Mersey Multimodal Gateway 3MG Logistics Park is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project. [88453]

**Norman Baker:** The Mersey Multimodal Gateway 3MG Logistics Park was allocated £9 million from Round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) in April 2011. The planned expenditure for the project is:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2011-12 | 3 |
| 2012-13 | 3 |
| 2013-14 | 3 |

The project is due to be completed in 2014, as set out in the contractual arrangements included in the grant offer.

### Transport: Planned Public Expenditure

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, (1) what the total planned public expenditure on the Western Gateway Enabling scheme at Port Salford is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88454]

(2) what the total planned public expenditure on the project to improve Junction 10A of the M1 motorway is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88466]

(3) what the total planned public expenditure on reinstating the Todmorden Curve is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88480]

(4) what the total planned public expenditure on the A45 Corridor (Damson Parkway to M42 Junction 6) is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88496]

(5) what the total planned public expenditure on the Gateway to the Sheffield City Region Terminal is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project; [88497]

(6) what the total planned public expenditure on constructing and developing the Tees Multimodal Bio-Freight Terminal is in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15, *(e)* 2015-16 and *(f)* 2016-17; and what the estimated date of completion is of the project. [88498]

**Norman Baker:** The Government are currently undertaking the contracting process for the projects which have successfully received a conditional allocation under the Regional Growth Fund. More information will be available from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), once this process is complete. All funding for successful projects will need to be drawn down by the end of the spending period in March 2015.

### Travel Information: Disability

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to increase access to travel advice and information for disabled people. [88897]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* As part of the Spectator Journey Planning service for the London 2012 Games, new functionality has been provided by the Department for Transport and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (via Transport Direct and the Olympic Delivery Authority) to enable spectators to request and discover route options that have level access and/or staff assistance available. This is based on a Games Network of Accessible Travel that covers almost 1,000 transport locations including National Rail stations, London Underground, light rail in London, Croydon and Nottingham, coach stations and Thames river piers.

As part of the preparations for London 2012 and as part of the Access for All programme of improvements on the National Rail network, audits have been undertaken of accessible stations and users can access these to see details and photographs of the accessible facilities available.

## EDUCATION

### Special Needs

18. **Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the role of parents in decisions on whether their child is independently tested for special educational needs. [89264]

**Sarah Teather:** Parents will always be central to assessments of their child's special educational needs. Some tell us that local authorities holding responsibility for assessing needs and making provision can appear to be a conflict of interest and lead to a lack of confidence in the process. That is why, through our Green Paper pathfinders, we are testing ways in which the voluntary sector might improve parents' confidence in the assessment process.

**Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the level of reductions in local authority funding for the support of children with special educational needs in 2011-12. [89258]

**Sarah Teather:** In total, in 2011-12, local authorities plan to spend £2,971 million on:

additional support for individual children with statements in mainstream schools;

maintained special schools;

placements in independent and non-maintained special schools;

specialist support services.

This compares with £2,800 million in 2010-11 and represents an increase of 6.1% in the past year.

### Apprenticeships

19. **Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to prepare young people in schools for apprenticeships in *(a)* Isle of Wight constituency and *(b)* England. [89265]

**Mr Hayes:** From September, all schools in England will be placed under a legal duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance. This will include information about apprenticeships. The National Apprenticeship Service is working with schools to inform and prepare young people for apprenticeships. And we are reforming the National Curriculum and raising standards in all our schools so that young people are better prepared for further learning, training or work.

### Academies

20. **Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have converted to academy status in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England since May 2010. [89266]

**Michael Gove:** Since May 2010, two schools have become Academies in Tamworth constituency.

Across the West Midlands, 136 Academies have opened since May 2010.

As of 1 January 2012 a total of 1,529 Academies are open across England, of which 1,326 Academies opened since May 2010 (1,194 converters, 132 sponsored).

23. **Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of progress in creating academies in *(a)* England, *(b)* the south-east and *(c)* Sittingbourne and Sheppey constituency. [89269]

**Michael Gove:** Almost 18 months ago, in May 2010, we passed the Academies Act 2010. Since then, 1,326 schools have become academies, with hundreds more in the pipeline. A total of 1,529 schools are now academies across England.

220 academies have opened in the south-east (excluding London).

In Sittingbourne and Sheppey there are eight converter academies (four primary, four secondary). One further school has submitted an application to convert.

### School Transport

21. **Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on school transport; and if he will make a statement. [89267]

**Tim Loughton:** Local authorities must provide free transport for compulsory school age pupils attending a school further from home than the statutory walking distances. Additional support is available for children from low-income families who meet the eligibility criteria. Local authorities must make arrangements for pupils unable to walk to school because of their special educational need, disability or mobility problems. Local authorities have a discretionary power to provide transport to all other children, though this need not be free.

### School Sport

22. **David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to increase participation in school sport. [89268]

**Tim Loughton:** Schools should provide competitive sport for all pupils as part of a rounded education. The review of National Curriculum PE will ensure that all pupils aged five to 16 will play sport at school. Additionally, the Departments for Education, Health and Culture, Media and Sport are working together to create the new School Games, which will provide competitions in a wide range of sports within school, between schools and at regional and national levels. The Department for Education is providing £65 million to enable PE teachers to help to develop the School Games.

### Free Schools

25. **Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many free schools he expects to open in 2012. [89271]

**Michael Gove:** I am delighted to report that the demand from parents for free schools remains strong throughout the country. We have already opened the first 24 free schools, six studio schools and two university technical colleges in response to this demand and there are a further 102 new schools in the pipeline.

Groups behind this next wave have a lot of work to do in the coming months, with 83 planning at this stage to open in 2012. If they continue to show the passion and commitment that was so evident in their proposals, they can provide the new schools that their communities so clearly need and deserve.

In the coming months I will be considering many more exciting proposals for new schools and I will of course keep the House updated on progress in this area.

### Children's Centres

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of payment-by-results in children's centres. [89270]

**Sarah Teather:** We are running a trial to explore the feasibility of introducing payment by results in children's centres. The trial, involving 27 local authorities, began in summer 2011 and will run until March 2013. The trials will generate an evidence base about the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches and help to inform an assessment of effectiveness.

### Magazine Press: Retail Trade

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to encourage small retailers to adopt the voluntary code of practice for the display of adult magazines; and how many letters his Department has sent to small retailers on the voluntary code of practice. [88348]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* Ensuring that magazines and newspapers with sexualised images on their covers are not displayed in easy sight of young children is one of the recommendations made by Reg Bailey in his independent review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood, 'Letting Children be Children'. The recommendation calls on retail associations in the news industry to do more to encourage observance of the industry's voluntary code of practice on the display of magazines with sexualised images on their covers, and that publishers and distributors should provide such magazines in modesty sleeves, or make modesty boards available, to all outlets they supply and encourage the appropriate display of their publications. The Government have accepted and welcomed Mr Bailey's analysis and the thrust of this and all the other recommendations he has made, which will reduce the pressure on children to grow up too fast.

This Department has not written directly to retailers on this matter since, in line with most of the recommendations of Mr Bailey's report, this recommendation is directed at businesses and their industry associations. It is a matter for those organisations to decide how best to achieve the intended outcome of the recommendation and the Government look to them to see that it is implemented as fully as possible. I therefore welcome the action taken by the Professional Publishers Association to refresh and reissue the voluntary code of practice to its members, and by the Press Distribution Forum to make the code of practice more accessible to parents by providing a link to it from the ParentPort website. This should help any parent who is concerned about the display of magazines with sexualised images on their covers to raise the issue with the retailer in question.

However, we expect to see more progress made on this issue. The Prime Minister chaired a summit meeting on 11 October 2011 to get progress reports from businesses, industry associations and regulators and I subsequently wrote to these organisations to acknowledge the progress made to that point and to set out our expectations for the future, including on the display of magazines. The Prime Minister and I will be holding further such meetings later this year in order to check the progress being made, and there will be a full stock-take of progress by the end of the year. At this point we will consider what further measures may need to be taken to achieve the recommended outcomes, including considering statutory regulation if voluntary action has not been effective.

## TREASURY

### Ministerial Meetings

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* he, *(b)* any Ministers and *(c)* officials of his Department have met (i) Mr Michael Hintze, (ii) Mr Tony Buckingham, (iii) Mr Michael Davis, (iv) Mr Poju Zabludowicz, (v) Jon Moulton and (vi) Stephen Crouch; and where any such meetings took place. [78653]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

A list of ministerial meetings with external organisations is published quarterly on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

### Bankruptcy

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* people and *(b)* businesses were declared bankrupt in each year for which figures are available. [89193]

**Mr Davey:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Annual numbers of individual insolvencies in England and Wales back to 1960 are available at the following link:

http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/historicdata/IndividualInsolvencies.xls

These figures show bankruptcy separately from other types of personal insolvency and include those self-employed traders who are declared bankrupt.

Annual numbers of corporate liquidations in England and Wales back to 1960 are available at the following link:

http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/historicdata/CompanyLiquidations.xls

### Banks: Finance

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the net Exchequer expenditure on *(a)* Lloyds TSB, *(b)* Royal Bank of Scotland and *(c)* other banks and building societies between 1 January 2008 and 1 January 2012. [89029]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government publish detailed information on the interventions in the financial system undertaken since 2007. This information is available in the HM Treasury annual report and accounts for each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

A full breakdown of the interventions undertaken by the last Government has been provided in the Comptroller and Auditor General's report to the House of Commons on the Treasury annual report and accounts for 2010-11. Institution specific information is also outlined in the Treasury accounts as follows:

2008-09: notes 29-38

2009-10: notes 27-36

2010-11: notes 29-38.

### Banks: Iceland

**Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to commission an inquiry into the effects on the UK economy of the collapse of the financial services sector in Iceland. [89135]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government have no plans to commission an inquiry into the effects on the UK economy of the collapse of the financial services sector in Iceland.

Arrangements have been made for all eligible UK depositors in the Icelandic banks to be fully compensated by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and HM Treasury.

In March 2009, the Treasury Select Committee published a report titled 'Banking Crisis: The impact of the failure of the Icelandic banks'. The report can be found via the following web link:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmtreasy/402/402.pdf

### Banks: Pay

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* Lloyds TSB and *(b)* Royal Bank of Scotland on provision of bonuses in 2012. [89028]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government are committed to tackling unacceptable bank bonuses. At the start of 2011 we placed a limit of £2,000 on cash bonuses for the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds in respect of 2010 bonuses. The bonus pool in respect of 2010 bonuses was significantly lower than the previous year and we have introduced the most transparent reporting regime of any major financial centre.

We have made it clear that the bonus pool this year in respect of 2011 bonuses must again be lower and more transparent. Further, the chief executive of LBG, Antonio Horta-Osorio, has decided that he does not want to be considered for a bonus for last year.

The Government are also clear that at a time like this, banks should be following the new Financial Policy Committee's recommendation that bank earnings should be used first and foremost to build capital levels not pay out larger bonuses, so that banks can lend to families and businesses, and are protected against market instability.

### Banks: Profits

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the profitability of *(a)* Lloyds TSB and *(b)* Royal Bank of Scotland in 2011. [89027]

**Mr Hoban:** The financial results for these banks are publically available on their websites.

### Capital Allowances

**Guto Bebb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what definition HM Revenue and Customs uses of financial services for the purposes of enhanced capital allowances; [89451]

(2) what definition of *(a)* energy, *(b)* aerospace, *(c)* advanced manufacturing and *(d)* automotive HM Revenue and Customs uses for the purposes of administering enhanced capital allowances. [89607]

**Mr Gauke:** None, as the tax legislation providing for first year (enhanced) capital allowances does not contain these terms.

### Coinage

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what duties banks have in respect of requests from members of the public to exchange coins for notes. [88935]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** This is a matter for the individual banks: there is no legal obligation for them to exchange coins for notes.

### Coinage: Local Government

**Dr Thérèse Coffey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment was made of the likely effect of the proposed introduction of new five and 10 pence coins on local authority ticket machines. [88926]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** In 2010 the decision was taken to delay the implementation (originally planned for early 2011) in order to allow industry—including local councils—additional time to complete the required recalibration of machines and thereby substantially reduce their costs.

The full impact assessment concerning the change in composition of 5p and 10p coins is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ria_coin_composition_change.htm

### Household Debt

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average level of household debt was in the last year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the likely level of such debt in each of the next five years. [89192]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The total amount of household debt in 2010 was £1,540,976 million. There were 27.264 million households in the UK at the end of 2010. The average amount of household debt was therefore approximately £56,500. Official economic forecasts are produced by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR). While the OBR do not produce forecasts for the average household debt, projections have been made for aggregate household debt alongside the Economic and Fiscal Outlook published in November 2011. The forecasts are available from the OBR website.

### Secondment

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are seconded to his Department from *(a)* UK and *(b)* other banks. [88986]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** As at 31 December 2011 HM Treasury did not have any staff seconded in from UK or other banks.

### Financial Services: Compensation

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that the EU Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive applies compensation limits to brands a well as financial institutions. [89524]

**Mr Hoban:** Negotiations on the EU Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive are currently in progress.

The directive aims to improve depositor protection across the EU and EEA. The Government will ensure that depositors in UK institutions continue to benefit from rapid effective compensation arrangements under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure the hon. Member for Walsall North receives a reply to his letter to the Economic Secretary of 23 November 2011, transferred to HM Revenue and Customs, ref 57082/2011. [89468]

**Mr Gauke:** I understand HM Revenue and Customs have now replied to the hon. Member.

### Pensions: Greece

**Jim Shannon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues have had with the European Commission about the extent of ghost pensions in Greece and its economic impact on the eurozone. [80473]

**Mr Hoban:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has discussions with EU counterparts on a variety of issues on a regular basis, and it would not be appropriate to provide a commentary on such meetings.

The Government believe that the agreement reached on 26 October represents good progress towards a resolution of the situation in Greece; the agreement is based on private sector participation on a voluntary basis. More work is now needed to put the agreement into practice, including detailed negotiations with the private sector.

Ultimately, the onus is on the euro area to deliver a solution for Greece that reflects a rigorous and realistic assessment of Greece's debt dynamics.

### Personal Pensions

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he *(a)* has met and *(b)* plans to meet Dr Christopher Sier and Mr David Norman to discuss the future of private pensions; and if he will make a statement. [88444]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Petrol: Prices

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of differential revenue receipts on petrol due to regional and local variations in the price of petrol. [89031]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Economic Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), gave on 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 192W, to my hon. Friend the Member for South West Norfolk (Elizabeth Truss). Fuel duty is paid by petrol importers and UK producers at a fixed amount of 57.95 pence per litre.

### Revenue and Customs: Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed in HM Revenue and Customs dynamic response team in each of the last three financial years. [89331]

**Mr Gauke:** The HMRC national minimum wage (NMW) dynamic response team is a flexible multi-grade team drawn from an existing pool of experienced NMW compliance staff located across the UK. The number of staff attached to the team in the two years since its formation is:

December 2009:11
December 2010: 20
December 2011: 20.

### Tax Evasion

**Karl McCartney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with officials in HM Revenue and Customs on the practice of offering sweetheart deals; [89924]

(2) what his policy is on the practice of offering sweetheart deals; [89925]

(3) what estimate he has made of the loss in revenue to the Exchequer as a result of sweetheart deals entered into by HM Revenue and Customs. [89926]

**Mr Gauke:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

HMRC treats all taxpayers even-handedly and does not give any of its customers favourable treatment or do sweetheart deals to allow them to settle for less than the full amount.

### Tax Evasion: Northern Ireland

**Fiona Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements are in place for liaison with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on tax evasion. [89476]

**Mr Gauke:** Ministers engage with their colleagues in the Northern Ireland Executive on a variety of matters, including tax evasion.

This Government and HMRC are determined to tackle tax evasion of all kinds, regardless of where it occurs, and ensure that the tax system operates fairly and efficiently for all. As part of the 2010 spending review settlement we announced that just over £900 million would be made available to HMRC to step-up their activity, in tackling tax loss. So for the four year period from April 2011 HMRC will reinvest £917 million of the savings they make to maximise additional revenues, which will include putting extra resource into tackling both evasion and avoidance. This reinvestment will fund a range of measures which will enable HMRC to bring in around £7 billion each year by 2014-15 in additional revenues.

### Taxation: Self-assessment

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of employers who were given penalty charges for failure to meet the deadline for returning P35 forms in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available; how much revenue to the Exchequer was raised from such penalties in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [88452]

**Mr Gauke:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as the data are not centrally held by HM Revenue and Customs data systems.

The number of penalties issued and associated amount due depends on the number of employees an employer employs (who are subject to PAYE deductions) and the length of time the PAYE Employer Annual Return was actually late or remained outstanding after the statutory filing deadline on 19 May following the end of the tax year (penalty calculation is based on £100 per 50 employees for each month or part month that the return is received late or is outstanding).

### VAT: Charities

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to amend section 41(7) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 to ensure the equal treatment of charities and the NHS in relation to VAT recovery; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [88835]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government have no plans to bring forward such proposals. Section 41 of the VAT Act provides limited recovery of VAT for Government Departments, including the NHS, in respect of certain outsourced services. The VAT which is refunded to the NHS and other bodies is fully taken into account as part of those bodies' overall funding arrangements, and the schemes that are in place represent the most efficient means of delivering this part of their funding.

### VAT: Home Care Services

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on exempting from VAT the charges for home care for people with disabilities; [89570]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of exempting from VAT the charges paid for home care by people with disabilities. [89571]

**Mr Gauke:** Welfare services are exempt from VAT but only if the services are supplied by a charity, a state-regulated private welfare institution or agency, or a public body. If provided by any other body then they will be taxable at the standard rate. No estimate has been made of the VAT paid at the standard rate on such supplies as the data are not collected.

### Veolia Environment: Taxation

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has to ensure that HM Revenue and Customs takes steps to review the data it holds relating to Veolia Environmental Services to ensure it is paying the correct level of taxation in the UK. [89536]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs cannot for reasons of taxpayer confidentiality comment on the tax affairs of individual companies. Veolia Environmental Services will be subject to the same compliance checks as any other company.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to question 78653, tabled on 1 November 2011 for answer on 3 November 2011, on meetings. [88439]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** I have now replied to the hon. Member.

## JUSTICE

### Bail

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the highest number of previous convictions was for failing to surrender to bail for an individual convicted of an offence of failing to surrender to bail without being sent to prison in each of the last three years; and how many offences they had committed in total at the point of sentence for that offence. [89454]

**Mr Blunt:** The following table shows the highest number of previous convictions for failing to surrender to bail, for individuals convicted of this offence in the years 2008 to 2010 who received a sentence other than immediate custody. It also shows their total number of previous cautions and convictions, and previous immediate custodial sentences. Although these individuals did not go to prison for their index offence, they had all previously been to prison for the same offence. Each individual has been cautioned or convicted of a large number of prostitution-related offences.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

*Highest number of previous convictions for failing to surrender to bail, when convicted of this offence in England and Wales in the years 2008 to 2010, and not going to prison*

| | *Number of previous offences* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| Previous convictions for failing to surrender to bail | 124 | 125 | 60 |
| Previous cautions and convictions at time of conviction | 378 | 382 | 304 |
| Previous immediate custodial sentences at time of conviction | 53 | 53 | 24 |

### Brain: Injuries

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received representations on the effect on offending of an acquired brain injury. [89292]

**Mr Blunt:** No formal representations on the effect on offending of an acquired brain injury are known to have been received, but Department of Health officials responsible for developing police custody and court liaison and diversion services for individuals with mental health problems and learning disabilities have met with the Disabilities Trust Foundation on related issues. I have had discussions with interested professionals, including at the Children's Trust, Tadworth and remain interested in any emerging academic research in this area of study.

### Chief Coroner

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department had with the Lord Chief Justice on the appointment of a chief coroner in November and December 2011. [89294]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), discussed this matter with the Lord Chief Justice in November 2011. While Ministry of Justice officials have not met the Lord Chief Justice, they held meetings with colleagues from the Judicial Office on two occasions in November and December to discuss the appointment of the chief coroner and this dialogue is ongoing.

### Civil Justice Council

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the two main items of non-staff running costs are that have been reduced by the Civil Justice Council as part of its 23% reduction in spending in 2011-12 compared to 2010-11. [89295]

**Mr Djanogly:** Further to the answer that I have previously given to the hon. Member, the main items reduced were conference costs and research.

### Civil Proceedings

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library copies of all correspondence received from media organisations in response to his Department's consultation on the reform of civil litigation. [88903]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** Nineteen media organisations responded to the Government's consultation on the reform of civil litigation. The responses to the consultation were identical and referred to a submission by the Media Lawyers Association (MLA). I am placing the relevant correspondence and the MLA submission in the House Library.

### Community Orders

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he has set for the development of his proposals on reforms to ensure that community sentences effectively punish and rehabilitate offenders. [89319]

**Mr Blunt:** We will be consulting on proposals to reform sentences in the community to ensure that they effectively punish and rehabilitate offenders. We intend to publish the consultation shortly.

**Susan Elan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the flexibility of the time, date and location of community service offered to offenders sentenced to community service. [89362]

**Mr Blunt:** Community service is now the unpaid work requirement of a community or suspended sentence order, which is also known as community payback. It is a legislative requirement that, so far as is practicable, the obligations imposed by a community order should not conflict with an offender's religious beliefs, employment, education or training. Community payback work placements are therefore operated flexibly seven days a week. Offenders are allocated to work placements within reasonable travelling distance of their home address. The precise location and nature of the work placement will also be determined by other factors such as the risk posed by the offender, the location of victims, the offender's availability and any specific needs which the offender may have, such as carer responsibilities or disability. Employed offenders are normally required to work a minimum of one day a week, while unemployed offenders may be instructed to work their sentence more intensively.

**Susan Elan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders sentenced to a community service sentence have been remanded in custody for failing to complete the required community service *(a)* in Wales and *(b)* nationally in the last 12 months. [89363]

**Mr Blunt:** With the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, community service became the unpaid work requirement of a community order or suspended sentence order. It is also known as community payback.

The information requested is not held centrally. Statistics are available separately on the number of unpaid work requirements which fail to complete and on the number of immediate receptions into custody for breach of a community order or suspended sentence order. Data-matching to combine them to calculate the number of receptions into custody which were specifically related to breach of an order with an unpaid work requirement would incur disproportionate cost.

The latest available data show that in 2010-11 1,402 unpaid work requirements attached to community orders and suspended sentence orders supervised by the Wales Probation Trust were revoked for failure to comply or for conviction of a further offence. The total number of such requirements revoked for these reasons in England and Wales was 22,264[1].

Data published for the calendar year 2009, the latest available, show that 3,996 persons were received into prison establishments in England and Wales for breach of a community sentence and 4,361 for breach of a suspended sentence[2]. It is not possible to disaggregate the figures for establishments in Wales from these totals.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

**Susan Elan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidelines his Department has issued on performance standard targets for community service work. [89364]

**Mr Blunt:** With the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, community service became the unpaid work requirement of a community order or suspended sentence order. It is also known as community payback.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Service Specification for Unpaid Work / Community Payback and the Community Payback Operating Manual issued by NOMS define the minimum outputs and delivery standards which must be met by probation trusts and other organisations responsible for community payback. They have been published on the Ministry of Justice website at the following location:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/guidance/prison-probation-and-rehabilitation/probation-instructions/pi_02_2010_unpaid_work_community_payback_service_specification.pdf

In addition, as part of their contracts, probation trusts are required to deliver a certain volume of successful completions of unpaid work requirements in the year as agreed with the commissioner. As management information NOMS also collects data on the percentage of unpaid work requirements which are successfully completed and the percentage of unpaid work offender days lost because of stand-downs (where the offender is sent home on the day or notified in advance not to attend). Outturns against each of these measures are reported at regional and national level in the NOMS Annual Report 2010/11: Management Information Addendum, which is published on the Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/hmps/noms-annual-report-2010-11-addendum.pdf

**Susan Elan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the measures available to probation officers to deal with offenders *(a)* who do not complete community service and *(b)* whose community service work falls below a satisfactory standard. [89365]

**Mr Blunt:** Community service is now the unpaid work requirement of a community or suspended sentence order, which is also known as community payback. Legislation requires that offenders sentenced to unpaid work are returned to court and prosecuted for breach of their orders following a maximum of two apparent failures to attend for work without good reason, or a maximum of two failures to work as instructed, or to a satisfactory standard. On conviction, the court's current powers include imposing additional unpaid work hours, or revoking the order and imposing an alternative sentence.

There are currently no executive powers for probation offender managers to deal with breach.

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[1] *Source:*

Table 18, NOMS Annual Report 2010/11: Management Information Addendum, Ministry of Justice

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/hmps/noms-annual-report-2010-11-addendum.pdf

[2] *Source:*

Table 6.9, Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009, Ministry of Justice

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonand probation.htm

### Courts: Video Conferencing

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the virtual court pilot scheme; and what plans he has to implement such a scheme nationwide. [89310]

**Mr Djanogly:** A pilot evaluation of virtual courts was published in December 2010 which concluded that first hearings in the magistrates courts could be conducted over secure video link from the police station.

Virtual courts are currently being rolled out to four areas (London, Kent, Cheshire and Hertfordshire) to enable criminal justice agencies to continue to refine their operating models and to inform a ministerial decision on whether to implement them further.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people with criminal records applied for Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority funds in the last year; how many such people received awards; and what the monetary value of those awards was to the nearest £25,000. [89293]

**Mr Djanogly:** CICA cannot say definitively how many people with unspent convictions applied in the last 12 months because information about whether an applicant has unspent convictions is only recorded on CICA's database when they decide the case—either by refusing compensation or making a reduced award.

CICA can, however, give figures based on cases resolved in that time. In the 2011 calendar year 3,092 people received an award that was reduced because of unspent convictions and 3,726 people had their case refused because of unspent convictions, giving a total of 6,818. The breakdown of the 3,092 awards is shown in the following table as requested:

| *Nearest £25,000* | *Number of awards paid* |
|---|---|
| 25,000 | 3,059 |
| 50,000 | 6 |
| 75,000 | 7 |
| 100,000 | 5 |
| 125,000 | 4 |
| 150,000 | 1 |
| 175,000 | 2 |
| 200,000 | 2 |
| 225,000 | — |
| 250,000 | — |
| 275.000 | — |
| 300,000 | — |
| 325,000 | 3 |
| 350,000 | 1 |
| 375,000 | 1 |
| 400,000 | — |
| 425,000 | 1 |
| 450,000 | — |
| 475,000 | — |
| 500,000 | — |

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people with criminal records applied for funds from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in the last 12 months; how many awards were made to such people; and how many applications were refused under each scheme paragraph. [89631]

**Mr Djanogly:** CICA cannot say definitively how many people with unspent convictions applied in the last 12 months because information about whether an applicant has unspent convictions is only recorded on CICA's database when they decide the case—either by refusing compensation or making a reduced award.

CICA can, however, give figures based on cases resolved in that time. In the 2011 calendar year 3,092 people received an award that was reduced because of unspent convictions and 3,726 people had their case refused because of unspent convictions, giving a total of 6,818. Paragraph 13 (e) of the scheme covers all refusals for unspent convictions.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many registered Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority claims were unresolved on the last day of each month since May 2010. [89632]

**Mr Djanogly:** Figures covering the period specified are shown in the following table:

| *Month* | *Number of unresolved cases* |
|---|---|
| *2010* | |
| May | 43,831 |
| June | 45,844 |
| July | 47,151 |
| August | 48,384 |
| September | 49,763 |
| October | 48,206 |
| November | 50,583 |
| December | 47,824 |
| *2011* | |
| January | 47,354 |
| February | 47,447 |
| March | 48,781 |
| April | 48,808 |
| May | 49,920 |
| June | 50,286 |
| July | 50,100 |
| August | 49,835 |
| September | 50,250 |
| October | 48,914 |
| November | 48,287 |
| December | 47,720 |

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted people sustaining injuries at the scene of a crime or while fleeing from the scene of a crime have received criminal injury compensation awards in each of the last 10 years; and for what reason in each case. [89633]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority only holds information at that level of detail within individual files, not in their main database. The information requested could be obtained only by a member of staff manually sifting through around 250,000 files at a disproportionate cost.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority: Manpower

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority has employed in each month since May 2010. [89636]

**Mr Djanogly:** Figures covering the period specified are shown in the following table:

| *Month* | *Number of CICA staff (full-time equivalent)* |
|---|---|
| *2010* | |
| May | 458.65 |
| June | 451.01 |
| July | 450.18 |
| August | 446.00 |
| September | 437.52 |
| October | 419.67 |
| November | 410.84 |
| December | 409.16 |
| *2011* | |
| January | 403.41 |
| February | 402.78 |
| March | 403.28 |
| April | 394.62 |
| May | 378.21 |
| June | 374.43 |
| July | 369.04 |
| August | 367.26 |
| September | 365.86 |
| October | 364.81 |
| November | 355.86 |
| December | 355.94 |

### Debt Collection

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many enforcement officers HM Courts and Tribunals Service has employed in each month since May 2010. [89728]

**Mr Djanogly:** The number of enforcement staff employed in HMCTS is shown in the following table. The system does not hold this information by month.

| | *2010* | *2011* |
|---|---|---|
| Court enforcement officer | 453 | 396 |
| Tipstaff | 2 | 2 |
| Bailiff | 486 | 465 |
| Total | 941 | 863 |

### Debt Collection: Regulation

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps he has taken to improve his Department's capacity to regulate claims management companies. [88902]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Department's Claims Management Regulation Unit has developed partnerships with the Legal Ombudsman Service (LeO), the Insurance Fraud Bureau, Direct Marketing Association, Information Commissioner's Office and the Financial Ombudsman Service to help tackle malpractice and protect consumers. Specific areas such as the handling of claims for mis-sold payment protection insurance have been targeted by the establishment of a specialist compliance team.

Work is also under way to improve the effectiveness of the current system of regulation which includes making improvements to the handling of consumer complaints, the authorisation process, and considering options for the future of regulation.

### Defamation Bill

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the Defamation Bill; and if he will make a statement. [88927]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Government remain firmly committed to reform of the law of defamation and we will seek to publish and introduce a substantive Defamation Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of his Department's headquarters in Petty France, London in the most recent year for which figures are available. [89106]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The overall cost of the Ministry of Justice's headquarters building at 102 Petty France, London for 2010-11 was £36.4 million. This includes rent and service concession arrangement fees of £26.5 million, plus rates, utilities, maintenance, security, cleaning and contracted catering services.

The use of 102 Petty France by the Department is part of a wider estate rationalisation programme to reduce its central London headquarters buildings from 18 to a maximum of four. From 2015, the rationalisation programme will have generated savings of £47 million a year.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on decorations for its head office since May 2010. [89644]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** No money has been spent on the decoration of 102 Petty France, the Ministry of Justice's central London headquarters, since May 2010.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89386]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice employs one ministerial speechwriter at Band A (civil service Grade 7).

## Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89672]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The information is as follows:

*(a) Senior civil service*

The following table sets out the total amount of non-consolidated performance related payments awarded in the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 to members of the senior civil service within the Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service. The table includes the maximum payment awarded and the monetary value of the 20 largest payments made.

£

| | *Total amount paid* | *Maximum payment awarded* | *Monetary value of 20 largest payments* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 949,000 | 10,000 | 200,000 |
| 2010-11 | 494,000 | 12,000 | 194,000 |

*Ministry of Justice (below senior civil service)*

The following tables set out the total amount of 'in-year' and 'end-year' non-consolidated performance-related payments awarded in the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 within the Ministry of Justice. The tables include the maximum payments awarded and the monetary value of the 20 largest payments made.

*In-year*

£

| | *Total amount paid* | *Maximum payment awarded* | *Monetary value of 20 largest payments* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-11 | 1,483,442 | 8,000 | 91,448.00 |
| 2010-11 | 1,291,512 | 5,697 | 58,956 |

*End-year*

£

| | *Total amount paid* | *Maximum payment awarded* | *Monetary value of 20 largest payments* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 2,226,800 | 1,200 | 24,000 |
| 2010-11 | 1,921,200 | 1,200 | 24,000 |

*National Offender Management Service (below Senior Civil Service)*

The following tables set out the total amount of 'in-year' and 'end-year' non-consolidated performance-related payments awarded in the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 within the National Offender Management Service. The tables include the monetary value of the 20 largest payments made.

*In-year*

| | *Total amount paid (£)* | *Number of staff receiving payment* | *Monetary value of 20 largest payments (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 1,609,340 | 2,503 | 87,454 |
| 2010-11 | 1,033,912 | 1,546 | 54,741 |

*Note:*

Information has been adjusted to exclude payments that are not special bonus payments. The figures presented here may therefore differ from previously published totals. The nature of the excluded payments is not known. These figures include previous NOMS HQ groups that transferred to MOJ in June 2010.

*End-year*

| | *Total amount paid (£)* | *Number of staff receiving payment* | *Monetary value of 20 largest payments (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 1,630,548 | 5,966 | 16,420 |
| 2010-11 | 1,724,607 | 6,245 | 16,580 |

*Note:*

The value of the 'year end' payment of non consolidated performance pay is set as part of the pay award and is a standard percentage of salary for all staff who receive it. The figures previously provided for 2009-10 have been updated to reflect those staff who received a late performance report and received payment post July 2010.

*(b) Ministry of Justice*

Central records of the values of all allowances are not held as some are not fixed monetary amounts but are variable based on a percentage of basic salary so are variable. The monetary value of the top 20 largest payments are not available. The total amount paid in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are set out as follows:

2009-10—£9,458,872

2010-11—£9,691,912

*National Offender Management Service*

Information on the monetary value of each category is not available in the detail requested. However, the sum of all payments in addition to standard salary payments for NOMS staff for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown as follows:

2009-10—£120,272,758

2010-11—£121,578,422

*(c) Ministry of Justice*

The total amount paid to staff for overtime and travel time within the Ministry of Justice in addition to basic salary for the year 2009-10 was £6,759,306 and for the year 2010-11 was £6,000,000[1]. The monetary value of each payment is not available as the rates paid are based on individual FTE salaries and contractual hours. Records on the monetary value of the 20 highest payments are not held centrally.

*National Offender Management Service*

Details of total amounts paid in overtime payments to staff in the NOMS for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown as follows. Records on the monetary value of the 20 highest payments are not held centrally.

2009-10—£10,422,968

2010-11—£10,438,863

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[1] This is a rounded figure based on a recent pay remit return. Exact figures are not yet available.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89385]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice is currently developing a policy on work experience, work placements and internships. In doing so, the Ministry aims to meet its commitment to provide a formal approach to internships by March 2012 (as outlined in the Social Mobility Strategy launched in May 2011). The Ministry's arm's lengths bodies have received guidance about the cessation of all informal internships until the new policy is in place.

### Driving Under Influence: Kent

**Rehman Chishti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were convicted of drink-driving offences in Kent and Medway in December 2011; and how many of those convictions were passed in the virtual court pilot scheme; [89311]

(2) how many of those convicted of drink driving offences were convicted and disqualified in a shorter time frame than the standard 15 days as a result of the virtual court pilot scheme in Kent and Medway in December 2011. [89312]

**Mr Blunt:** Information for the overall number of defendants convicted of drink-driving offences in Kent and Medway in December 2011 is not yet available. Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring 2012.

Indicative data available from Kent police is that 222 people were charged with drink driving offences during the month of December. 15 drink drivers were put before the virtual court at Medway magistrates court in December; 12 of those were disqualified at first hearing within 48 hours of being charged.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88974]

**Mr Blunt:** There was one provision commenced through primary legislation by my Department which was derived from EU legislation in 2010.

There were a further 11 statutory instruments (secondary legislation) brought into force. Of these three were in force in 2010 and the remaining eight in force in 2011.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which EU *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89671]

**Mr Djanogly:** The following EU legislation has been agreed which is awaiting transposition into law in England and Wales:

Council Decision2008/431/EC of 5 June 2008 authorising certain member states to ratify, or accede to, in the interest of the European Community, the 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children and authorising certain member states to make a declaration on the application of the relevant internal rules of Community law.

Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings.

Council Decision 2011/432/EU of 9 June 2011 on the approval, on behalf of the European Union, of the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance.

Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA.

Directive 2011/99/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the European protection order.

There is also a body of EU legislation in the area of police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters, adopted prior to the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty, against which the Government are currently assessing our outstanding transposition obligations. This will inform the decision we must take no later than May 2014 on whether to accept European Court of Justice jurisdiction for these measures. Instruments in the area of civil and criminal judicial co-operation rarely have a significant impact on the private sector and have minimal impact on the public purse—the latter usually relating only to the administrative costs of facilitating the operation of the instrument. The Government are increasingly using impact assessments, and associated control mechanisms (including a new Cabinet Committee and external scrutiny body) to control the costs of policy proposals. Specific emphasis is also being placed on avoiding "gold- plating" when transposing EU measures and the Government are alert to the need to "push back" on EU proposals which may have an adverse economic effect. Impact assessments for the 2007 Hague convention and the directives on interpretation and translation, combating child sexual exploitation, and the European Protection Order will be available publically in due course. An assessment of the likely costs arising from the 1996 Hague convention determined that an impact assessment was unnecessary.

### Euthanasia

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has assessed the conclusions of the report from the Commission on Assisted Dying; and if he will make a statement. [89417]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government will look at the conclusions reached by the Commission on Assisted Dying with interest. However, the Government have made clear that any change to the law in this emotive and contentious area is an issue of individual conscience and therefore a matter for Parliament to decide rather than one for government policy.

### Feltham Young Offender Institution

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects to publish his Department's evaluation of the resettlement project in Heron Wing at HM Young Offender Institution Feltham; [89128]

(2) what plans he has to continue the work of the Heron Wing resettlement unit for young offenders at HM Young Offender Institution Feltham after March 2012. [89129]

**Mr Blunt:** I understand that a full evaluation report of the 'Daedalus' resettlement project in Heron Wing, which is funded by the Mayor of London's office, is expected to be published in summer 2012. Decisions about continuing the work of the Heron Wing resettlement unit after May 2012, when the current funding ends, are still under review.

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the National Offender Management Service is taking to address the findings of the recent report by HM Chief Inspectorate of Prisons on HM Young Offender Institution Feltham. [89203]

**Mr Blunt:** As with all HMCIP establishment reports NOMS will produce an action plan responding to all the recommendations made in the report. The intention is to produce the action plan within six months of the date of the publication which was 20 December 2011.

### Freedom (Great Repeal) Bill (Draft)

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report,* column 795W, on law: repealed, when he expects the Repeals Bill to be laid before the House. [89523]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Government remain committed to the repeal of unnecessary legislation, particularly that which imposes excessive burdens on business, individuals and public bodies. Legislation to take forward this commitment will be introduced as soon as parliamentary time permits.

### Freedom of Information

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons his Department's freedom of information disclosure log has not been updated since August 2011. [89734]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice is committed to maintaining a disclosure log of information provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and it has now been updated with content for 1 September to 31 November. Content for December will be published in due course. Improvements are being made to the existing format of the disclosure log: from February of this year the content will be categorised by subject matter, making it more easily accessible. No content was uploaded on the log while the format of the disclosure log was under review.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's response to each report under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in which information has been disclosed since 1 September 2011, anonymising the requester's data in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. [89735]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice publishes information provided under the Freedom of Information Act on a disclosure log on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/global/foi-requests/latest-moj-disclosure-log.htm

Content for the period 1 September 2011 to 31 November 2011 has now been uploaded to the disclosure log. Content for December will be published in due course. Owing to the volume of the content—over 200 responses, many with substantial attachments—it would not be proportionate to also place copies in the Library of the House.

### Human Rights: Business

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the view expressed by the UN Special Representative on business and human rights that provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill will constitute a significant barrier to legitimate business-related human rights claims being brought before UK courts. [89321]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Government are aware of the views expressed by the former UN Special Representative on business and human rights, Professor John Ruggie, regarding the impact of our reforms to no win no fee conditional fee agreements (CFAs) on victims of alleged corporate harm by UK multinationals in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

It remains our view that it will still be possible to bring claims against multinational companies once our reforms are implemented. However, we believe that the costs involved will be more proportionate to the sums in issue.

The hon. Member may wish to note that Professor Ruggie wrote to me setting out his concerns and I responded in similar terms. A copy of this correspondence was placed in the House Library on 1 December 2011.

### Information Commissioner

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Information Commissioner has ruled against his Department since its inception. [89732]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent regulator with responsibility for monitoring compliance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act ('the Act').

The following table details the numbers of decision notices served by the Information Commissioner on the Ministry of Justice in respect of complaints against the Ministry of Justice under the Freedom of Information Act and the environmental information regulations.

These figures include complaints against some of the MoJ's associated bodies not listed as separate public authorities under schedule 1 of the Act.

Also recorded is whether the complaints against the Ministry of Justice were upheld, partly upheld or not upheld.

| *Calendar year* | *Decision notices served* | *Upheld* | *Partly upheld* | *Not upheld* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| 2008 | 12 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 2009 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| 2010 | 26 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| 2011 | 35 | 8 | 8 | 19 |

## Judges

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many judges sitting on cases before the First Tier Tribunal (Tax) *(a)* currently undertake private work as a legal practitioner on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* have undertaken private work as a legal practitioner on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs (i) within one year, (ii) within two years, (iii) within three years, (iv) within four years and (v) within five years of being appointed to serve as a First Tier Tribunal (Tax) judge; [89744]

(2) how many judges sitting on cases before the First Tier Tribunal (Tax) have undertaken private work as a legal practitioner on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs after sitting as a judge on cases before the First Tier Tribunal (Tax). [89746]

**Mr Djanogly:** We do not hold information that enables us to be able to provide details on the number of judges sitting on cases before the First Tier Tribunal (Tax) that have previously undertaken, currently undertake or have gone on to undertake private work as a legal practitioner on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs.

Tribunal judges are often appointed from the legal profession so that they have both knowledge of and experience in the jurisdiction for which they will consider appeals. Judges are, of course, prohibited from taking judicial action on a case in which they have provided professional advice to either side.

## Legal Aid Scheme: Social Security Benefits

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has consulted disabled people on the effect on them of removing welfare benefits from the scope of legal aid. [89327]

**Mr Djanogly:** A full public consultation was held on legal aid reform. Mindful of our obligations under the public sector equality duty, and in particular the need to encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life, we engaged the Legal Services Commission's client diversity group, which includes users with protected characteristics (including disabilities) to obtain their views on the consultation proposals. This engagement led to the production of a summary of consultation proposals in the Easyread format for those with learning difficulties, as well as a British Sign Language version being made available.

## Legal Aid Scheme: Telephones

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of its proposed communications strategy to inform the public of a new mandatory telephone gateway for legal aid. [89630]

**Mr Djanogly:** The estimated one-off cost of implementing the mandatory telephone gateway, which includes the cost of the marketing strategy being developed, is £2 million. This figure is contained within the impact assessment published in June 2011 as part of the 'Reform of Aid in England and Wales: the Government Response', and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform.htm

## Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* salary, *(b)* benefits, *(c)* accommodation, *(d)* transport and *(e)* expenses for special advisers in 2011-12 to date in each area of expenditure. [89642]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I have two special advisers. Their salaries are published quarterly on the Cabinet Office website. The last publication was 9 December 2011 and can be found here:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/LIST_AND_COSTS_9_DECEMBER_0.pdf

My special advisers do not claim any other benefits or accommodation costs. They have claimed total travel and subsistence expenses of £129.10 in the period 13 January 2011 to 13 January 2012. Mobile phone charges provided under a central contract and overseas travel costs accompanying me on officials business are not included in these figures.

## Prisoners: Jamaica

**Michael Ellis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners held in HM Prison Service prisons are Jamaican nationals. [89420]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality is published quarterly in the "Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin", found under the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly.htm

From the most recent available data, end of September 2011, the number of Jamaican national prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales is 878.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prisons: Public Expenditure

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the adult prison estate in England and Wales in February and March 2012. [89621]

**Mr Blunt:** The latest estimated forecast expenditure for adult prison estate in private and public sector in England and Wales for February 2012 is £150.2 million; and for March 2012 is £154.3 million. Figures are subject to rounding, and are likely to change as actual expenditure is reviewed each month end.

### Probation

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders given probation orders in England had their supervision transferred to Scottish local authorities in each of the last five years. [88167]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on how many offenders given community orders in England or Wales have had their supervision transferred to Scottish local authorities centrally. This information could be obtained only by a manual inspection of court files and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Secure Accommodation

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many secure premises used to house restricted patients there are in each local authority area; [89736]

(2) how many secure premises used to house sex offenders there are in each local authority area. [89737]

**Mr Blunt:** Restricted patients, including those who are sex offenders, may be detained in any hospital. Upon conditional discharge, depending on their needs, restricted patients may be housed in a variety of accommodation, including hostels, sheltered accommodation and private residential accommodation. It is not possible to provide a list of all premises used to house restricted patients.

Sex offenders who are released from prison may be housed in approved premises. Approved premises are not identical to secure hospitals. Individuals convicted of offences who are required to reside in an approved premises as a condition of their release licence are not held there as an alternative to custody in that they have completed the custodial part of their sentence. However, they are subject to a night time curfew and may be subject to other restrictions on their movement, depending on their assessed risk of harm. No approved premises are exclusively for sex offenders; all are able to take other types of offender as well. The number of approved premises in each local authority area is as follows.

| *Local authority* | *Number of approved premises* |
|---|---|
| Ashfield district | 1 |
| Basildon district | 1 |
| Bedford borough | 1 |
| Birmingham city | 4 |
| Blackburn with Darwen borough | 1 |
| Bournemouth borough | 1 |
| Brighton and Hove city | 1 |
| Bristol city | 3 |
| Bury borough | 1 |
| Cardiff (unitary) | 1 |
| Carlisle city | 1 |
| Cheshire East borough | 1 |
| Cheshire West and Chester borough | 1 |
| City of York | 1 |
| Cornwall (unitary) | 1 |
| Derby city | 1 |
| Doncaster borough | 1 |
| Fareham borough | 1 |
| Gateshead borough | 1 |
| Gloucester city | 1 |
| Guildford borough | 1 |
| Gwynedd (unitary) | 1 |
| Havant borough | 1 |
| Hull city | 1 |
| Hyndburn borough | 1 |
| Ipswich borough | 2 |
| Kirklees borough | 2 |
| Leeds city | 4 |
| Leicester city | 2 |
| Lincoln city | 1 |
| Liverpool city | 4 |
| London borough of Brent | 1 |
| London borough of Bromley | 1 |
| London borough of Camden | 2 |
| London borough of Ealing | 1 |
| London borough of Islington | 1 |
| London borough of Lambeth | 2 |
| London borough of Lewisham | 1 |
| London borough of Newham | 1 |
| London borough of Richmond upon Thames | 1 |
| London borough of Southwark | 1 |
| London borough of Wandsworth | 1 |
| Luton borough | 1 |
| Maidstone borough | 1 |
| Manchester city | 2 |
| Middlesbrough borough | 1 |
| Milton Keynes | 1 |
| Newcastle city | 2 |
| Newcastle under Lyme borough | 1 |
| North Lincolnshire | 1 |
| Northampton borough | 1 |
| Norwich city | 1 |
| Nottingham city | 2 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth borough | 1 |
| Oldham borough | 1 |
| Oxford city | 2 |
| Peterborough city | 1 |
| Plymouth city | 1 |
| Reading borough | 2 |
| Redcar and Cleveland (unitary) | 1 |
| Rochdale borough | 1 |
| Rotherham borough | 1 |
| Salford city | 1 |
| Sandwell borough | 1 |
| Sedgemoor district | 1 |
| Sheffield city | 1 |
| Southampton city | 1 |
| Stafford borough | 1 |
| Stockport borough | 1 |
| Stoke on Trent city | 1 |
| Sunderland city | 1 |
| Swansea (unitary) | 1 |
| Wakefield city | 1 |
| Walsall borough | 1 |
| Warwick district | 1 |
| Weymouth and Portland borough | 1 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead borough | 1 |

| *Local authority* | *Number of approved premises* |
|---|---|
| Wolverhampton city | 1 |
| Worcester city | 1 |
| Wrexham borough | 1 |

## Sexual Offences: Rehabilitation

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of treatment programmes for sex offenders serving custodial sentences in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [88944]

**Mr Blunt:** The cost to the public purse of treatment programmes for sex offenders serving custodial sentences in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years is not collated centrally. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by gathering highly complex information held on offender files or in local and national data systems, validating it, collating it in a common format and then calculating the overall costs in order to provide a response.

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sex offenders completed treatment programmes in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [88945]

**Mr Blunt:** There are a range of interventions that could all potentially help reduce an offender's risk of further sexual offending and/or general offending.

In terms of those specifically designed to meet the treatment needs of sexual offenders, the figures for completions of an accredited Sex Offender Treatment Programme for the past 10 years to date are as follows:

| | *Custody SOTP completions* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 851 |
| 2002-03 | 867 |
| 2003-04 | 948 |
| 2004-05 | 1,232 |
| 2005-06 | 1,152 |
| 2006-07 | 1,224 |
| 2007-08 | 1,117 |
| 2008-09 | 1,114 |
| 2009-10 | 1,133 |
| 2010-11 | 1,142 |

These figures are only for completions and it is possible that the figure for each year includes offenders who have completed two courses.

These figures do not include sexual offenders who have undertaken other programmes not specifically designed to address sexual offending, such as Thinking Skills programmes or treatment at Therapeutic Communities such as the one at HMP Grendon.

## Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* Action on Addiction, *(b)* Adoption UK, *(c)* the Adoption and Fostering Information Line, *(d)* the Child Bereavement Charity, *(e)* Well Child and *(f)* each of East Anglia's children's hospices in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [89770]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice provided funding of £27,500 to The Child Bereavement Charity in 2011-12. No funding was provided to this charity in 2010-11.

The Ministry of Justice did not provide funding to Action on Addiction, Adoption UK, The Adoption and Fostering Information Line, Well Child and East Anglia's children's hospices in neither 2010-11 nor 2011-12.

## Trade Unions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to prevent the blacklisting of workers for trade union activities. [89575]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice acts in accordance with the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act (1992). Further to this, trade union representatives within the Department are afforded reasonable facility time to carry out their role. The Department does not blacklist workers for trade union activities.

## Young Offenders: Haringey

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders aged between 18 and 20 from the London Borough of Haringey have been held in *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* local prisons and *(c)* other parts of the secure estate in each month since May 2009. [89126]

**Mr Blunt:** All young offenders serving sentences of DYOI are held in appropriately designated YOI accommodation within the prison estate. The majority of this accommodation is in dedicated YOIs, although some establishments in the estate have a dual designation (designated both as a prison and a YOI) and hold both adult prisoners and young offenders.

The following table shows the number of offenders aged 18 to 20-years-old with a recorded residential address or proxy in the London borough of Haringey who were held in predominant function male young offender institutions, predominant function male local prisons and other prisons (including female prisons) on a set day in each month where data are available since May 2009.

*Number and location of male and female young adult offenders (aged 18 to 20) originating from London borough of Haringey*

| *Location* | *May 2009* | *September 2010* | *November 2010* | *January 2011* | *March 2011* | *May 2011* | *July 2011* | *September 2011* | *November 2011* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Male young offender institutions | 89 | 76 | 76 | 73 | 70 | 62 | 75 | 87 | 104 |
| *(b)* Male local prisons | 5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 11 | 7 | 12 | 5 |

*Number and location of male and female young adult offenders (aged 18 to 20) originating from London borough of Haringey*

| *Location* | *May 2009* | *September 2010* | *November 2010* | *January 2011* | *March 2011* | *May 2011* | *July 2011* | *September 2011* | *November 2011* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(c)* Other prisons (including female prisons) | 6 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 20 | 18 | 17 | 19 | 16 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Information on offenders' residences is provided by offenders on reception into prison and recorded on a central IT system. Addresses can include a home address, an address to which offenders intend to return on discharge or next of kin address and these figures are provided in the table above.

If no address is given, an offender's committal court address is used as a proxy for the area in which they are resident. These figures are also included in the table above. No address has been recorded and no court information is available for around 3% of all offenders, these figures are excluded from the table above.

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juvenile offenders from the London borough of Haringey have been held in *(a)* secure children's homes, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* young offender institutions in each month since May 2005. [89127]

**Mr Blunt:** The following table shows the number of juvenile offenders (aged 10 to 17) either sentenced or remanded in custody attached to the Haringey youth offending team in each month since May 2005.

These data are from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and refers to secure training centres (STCs), secure children's homes (SCHs) and under 18 young offender institutions (YOIs).

The figures from April 2010 onwards are provisional. The final figures for April 2010 to March 2011 will be finalised in the 2010-11 Youth Justice Statistics publication on 26 January 2012. Data from April 2011 onwards will be finalised when the 2011-12 Youth Justice Statistics are published in 2013.

*Young people in custody attached to Haringey youth offending team by establishment type in each month since May 2005*

| | *Secure children's homes* | *Secure training centres* | *Under 18 young offender institutions* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2005* | | | |
| May | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| June | 0 | 1 | 28 |
| July | 0 | 1 | 27 |
| August | 0 | 1 | 25 |
| September | 1 | 1 | 26 |
| October | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| November | 1 | 1 | 21 |
| December | 1 | 2 | 19 |
| *2006* | | | |
| January | 0 | 3 | 22 |
| February | 0 | 3 | 24 |
| March | 0 | 4 | 25 |
| April | 0 | 4 | 23 |
| May | 1 | 4 | 24 |
| June | 1 | 5 | 28 |
| July | 1 | 5 | 27 |
| August | 2 | 5 | 26 |
| September | 2 | 5 | 28 |
| October | 2 | 3 | 26 |
| November | 2 | 1 | 27 |
| December | 2 | 2 | 22 |
| *2007* | | | |
| January | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| February | 1 | 5 | 22 |
| March | 2 | 3 | 23 |
| April | 2 | 3 | 28 |
| May | 3 | 4 | 26 |
| June | 2 | 4 | 26 |
| July | 2 | 1 | 30 |
| August | 2 | 0 | 25 |
| September | 1 | 2 | 23 |
| October | 1 | 3 | 25 |
| November | 2 | 3 | 29 |
| December | 3 | 5 | 27 |
| *2008* | | | |
| January | 2 | 4 | 36 |
| February | 2 | 2 | 35 |
| March | 2 | 3 | 33 |
| April | 1 | 2 | 24 |
| May | 2 | 2 | 24 |
| June | 1 | 3 | 19 |
| July | 0 | 3 | 20 |
| August | 0 | 5 | 21 |
| September | 0 | 6 | 17 |
| October | 0 | 5 | 20 |
| November | 0 | 4 | 17 |
| December | 0 | 4 | 18 |
| *2009* | | | |
| January | 2 | 4 | 17 |
| February | 1 | 3 | 15 |
| March | 1 | 3 | 13 |
| April | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| May | 0 | 2 | 13 |
| June | 0 | 1 | 17 |
| July | 0 | 1 | 17 |
| August | 0 | 1 | 17 |
| September | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| October | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| November | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| December | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| *2010* | | | |
| January | 0 | 1 | 25 |
| February | 0 | 1 | 23 |

*Young people in custody attached to Haringey youth offending team by establishment type in each month since May 2005*

| | Secure children's homes | Secure training centres | Under 18 young offender institutions |
|---|---|---|---|
| March | 0 | 1 | 17 |
| April | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| May | 0 | 1 | 19 |
| June | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| July | 0 | 1 | 18 |
| August | 0 | 1 | 18 |
| September | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| October | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| November | 0 | 1 | 18 |
| December | 0 | 1 | 19 |
| *2011* | | | |
| January | 0 | 2 | 16 |
| February | 0 | 5 | 16 |
| March | 0 | 5 | 20 |
| April | 0 | 5 | 17 |
| May | 0 | 5 | 16 |
| June | 1 | 4 | 15 |
| July | 1 | 3 | 16 |
| August | 1 | 4 | 21 |
| September | 1 | 6 | 26 |
| October | 2 | 6 | 29 |

*Notes:*

1. YJB data referring to secure training centres (STCs), secure children's homes (SCHs), and under 18 young offender institutions (YOIs). This does not include 18 to 21-year-olds held in YOI separate units for which the YJB do not hold data. The figures from April 2010 onwards are provisional.
2. Young people are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years of age, however, some 18-year-olds remain in the secure estate for children and young people if they only have a short period of their sentence left to serve, to avoid disrupting their regimes (and are included in these figures).
3. The data comes from the Youth Justice Board's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS). These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

## Young Offenders: Wigan

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juvenile offenders from the Wigan metropolitan borough council area have been held in a *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offender institution in each month since May 2005. [88995]

**Mr Blunt:** The table shows the number of juvenile offenders (aged 10 to 17) either sentenced or remanded in custody attached to the Wigan Youth Offending Team in each month since May 2005.

These data are from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and refer to Secure Training Centres (STCs), Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), and Under 18 Young Offender Institutions (YOIs).

The figures from April 2010 onwards are provisional. The final figures for April 2010 to March 2011 will be finalised in the 2010-11 Youth Justice Statistics publication on 26 January 2012. Data from April 2011 onwards will be finalised when the 2011-12 Youth Justice Statistics are published in 2013.

*Table 1: Young people in custody attached to Wigan youth offending team by establishment type in each month since May 2005*

| *Month* | *Secure children's homes* | *Secure training centres* | *Under 18 young offender institutions* |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2005 | 3 | 4 | 13 |
| June 2005 | 4 | 4 | 11 |
| July 2005 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| August 2005 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| September 2005 | 5 | 3 | 12 |
| October 2005 | 5 | 3 | 12 |
| November 2005 | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| December 2005 | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| January 2006 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| February 2006 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| March 2006 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| April 2006 | 3 | 2 | 12 |
| May 2006 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| June 2006 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| July 2006 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| August 2006 | 1 | 1 | 15 |
| September 2006 | 1 | 1 | 15 |
| October 2006 | 3 | 1 | 15 |
| November 2006 | 3 | 1 | 15 |
| December 2006 | 3 | 0 | 14 |
| January 2007 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| February 2007 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| March 2007 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| April 2007 | 0 | 2 | 14 |
| May 2007 | 1 | 2 | 15 |
| June 2007 | 0 | 2 | 14 |

*Table 1: Young people in custody attached to Wigan youth offending team by establishment type in each month since May 2005*

| *Month* | *Secure children's homes* | *Secure training centres* | *Under 18 young offender institutions* |
|---|---|---|---|
| July 2007 | 0 | 2 | 14 |
| August 2007 | 1 | 3 | 18 |
| September 2007 | 3 | 1 | 19 |
| October 2007 | 4 | 1 | 17 |
| November 2007 | 3 | 1 | 14 |
| December 2007 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| January 2008 | 2 | 1 | 10 |
| February 2008 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| March 2008 | 1 | 2 | 15 |
| April 2008 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| May 2008 | 2 | 0 | 17 |
| June 2008 | 2 | 0 | 17 |
| July 2008 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| August 2008 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| September 2008 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| October 2008 | 1 | 0 | 22 |
| November 2008 | 2 | 1 | 15 |
| December 2008 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| January 2009 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| February 2009 | 2 | 0 | 9 |
| March 2009 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| April 2009 | 2 | 0 | 9 |
| May 2009 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| June 2009 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| July 2009 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| August 2009 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| September 2009 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| October 2009 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| November 2009 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| December 2009 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| January 2010 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| February 2010 | 0 | 2 | 7 |
| March 2010 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| April 2010 | 4 | 0 | 9 |
| May 2010 | 4 | 0 | 9 |
| June 2010 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| July 2010 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| August 2010 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| September 2010 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| October 2010 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| November 2010 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| December 2010 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| January 2011 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| February 2011 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| March 2011 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| April 2011 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| May 2011 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| June 2011 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| July 2011 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| August 2011 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| September 2011 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| October 2011 | 3 | 1 | 6 |

*Notes:*
1. YJB data referring to Secure Training Centres (STCs), Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), and Under 18 Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). This does not include 18 to 21-year-olds held in YOI separate units for which the YJB do not hold data. The figures from April 2010 onwards are provisional.
2. Young people are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years of age, however some 18-year-olds remain in the secure estate for children and young people if they only have a short period of their sentence left to serve, to avoid disrupting their regimes (and are included in these figures).
3. The data comes from the Youth Justice Board's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS). These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change overtime.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young adult offenders aged between 18 and 20 from the Wigan metropolitan borough council area have been held in *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* local prisons, *(c)* women's prisons and *(d)* other parts of the secure estate in each month since May 2009. [88996]

**Mr Blunt:** All young offenders serving sentences of DYOI are held in appropriately designated YOI accommodation within the prison estate. The majority of this accommodation is in dedicated YOIs, although some establishments in the estate have a dual designation (designated both as a prison and a YOI) and hold both adult prisoners and young offenders.

The following table shows the number of offenders 18 to 20-years-old with a recorded residential address or proxy in the Wigan metropolitan borough council area who were held in predominant function male young offender institutions, predominant function male local prisons, all female prisons and the rest of the male estate on a set day in each month where data are available since May 2009.

*Number and location of male and female young adult offenders (aged 18 to 20) originating from Wigan metropolitan borough council area*

| *Location* | *May 2009* | *September 2010* | *November 2010* | *January 2011* | *March 2011* | *May 2011* | *July 2011* | *September 2011* | *November 2011* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Male young offender institutions | 25 | 24 | 22 | 25 | 30 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| *(b)* Male local prisons | 5 | <5 | 9 | 5 | <5 | <5 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| *(c)* Female prisons | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 | <5 | 0 | 0 |
| *(d)* Rest of the male estate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Information on offender's residences is provided by offenders on reception into prison and recorded on a central IT system. Addresses can include a prisoner's home address, an address to which offenders intend to return on discharge or next of kin address and these figures are provided in the table above.

If no address is given, an offender's committal court address is used as a proxy for the area in which they are resident. These figures are also included in the table above. No address has been recorded and no court information is available for around 3% of all offender's, these figures are excluded from the table above.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the relationship between geographic density of off-licences and alcohol harm in *(a)* young people and *(b)* adults. [89443]

**Anne Milton:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published guidance in June 2010, 'Alcohol-use disorders: preventing the development of hazardous and harmful drinking', based on a series of evidence reviews. Evidence statements 2.21, 2.22, 2.24 and 2.25 summarise the evidence for a relationship between alcohol outlet density and harm in young people and adults..

The guidance has been placed in the Library.

### Cardiovascular System: Diseases

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to produce a cardiovascular disease-specific NHS Atlas of Variation in order to inform the development of the outcomes framework for cardiovascular disease; and if he will make a statement. [88324]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There are currently no plans to produce a cardiovascular disease specific NHS Atlas of Variation. The NHS Atlas of Variation 2, published in December 2011, contains maps showing variation relating to a selected range of problems of circulation where there may be significant unwarranted variation. A copy of the atlas has been placed in the Library. The purpose of the Atlas of Variation is to enable an exploration of the reasons for variation and support decision making to improve the outcomes and value of health and care, rather than driving the development of outcomes indicators or to provide a comprehensive description of all variation which occurs within the national health service.

### Care Quality Commission: Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of staffing levels at the Care Quality Commission. [88837]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England and has a key responsibility in the overall assurance of essential levels of safety and quality of health and adult social care services.

As an executive non-departmental public body, it is for the CQC to determine the appropriate staffing complement for its organisation, within its available resources, in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

### Children

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* Action on Addiction, *(b)* Adoption UK, *(c)* the Adoption and Fostering Information Line, *(d)* the Child Bereavement Charity, *(e)* Well Child and *(f)* each of East Anglia's childrens hospices in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [89766]

**Anne Milton:** The Department can confirm that funding was provided to the named organisations as follows:

| *Recipient organisations* | *2010-11* | £<br>*2011-12* |
|---|---|---|
| Action on Addiction | 0 | 0 |
| Adoption UK | 0 | 0 |
| The UK Adoption and Fostering Information Line | 0 | 0 |
| The Child Bereavement Charity | 39,900 | 0 |
| Well Child | 0 | 0 |
| East Anglia's Children's Hospices | 1,406,927 | 748,567 |
| Total | 1,446,827 | 748,567 |

It should be noted that funding for 2011-12 represents the latest allocations and additional funding could be allocated in the remaining months of the financial year.

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88604]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are aware of no specific departmental plans to mark this event. However, the Department is committed to supporting the creation and expansion of mutuals, co-operatives, charities and social enterprises and enabling these groups to have much greater involvement in the running of health and care services.

For example, we are running a Right to Provide Programme which extends the right to explore the opportunities of setting up a staff-led enterprise, including mutuals, joint ventures, partnerships and social enterprise, to the wider national health service and social care communities. The Social Enterprise Investment Fund has invested more than £80 million in the health and social care sector and applications for investments for 2011-12 are being progressed by the fund manager.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88730]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Three of the Department's arm's length bodies (ALBs) have incurred, or expect to incur, expenditure on apprenticeships. Details are shown in the following table:

| | *Amount of funding allocated to sponsor apprenticeships between:* | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| *ALB* | *April 2010 and March 2011* | *April 2011 and March 2012* | *April 2012 and March 2013* |
| Health Protection Agency | 16,567 | 34,394 | 2,782 |
| National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |
| NHS Blood and Transplant | 195,000 | [1]157,000 | [1]250,000 |

[1] Future costs are estimates and not firm allocations.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89144]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department employs apprentices in two ways:

appointing apprentices through external recruitment; and

by offering existing staff access to apprenticeship programmes as part of their learning and development.

The Department externally recruited three apprentices between April 2010 and March 2011 and April and December 2011. On completion of their apprenticeships in January 2012, the apprentices joined the Department. No specific budget was allocated to apprenticeships of this type, but the costs were £48,386 in 2010-11 and £34,348 in 2011-12.

There are no specific plans to recruit apprentices externally in the coming year, but the Department is committed to providing development opportunities through apprenticeships.

On internal apprenticeships, six staff participated in 2010-11. There were no costs to the Department as the scheme was sponsored centrally. No staff took part during 2011-12 so there were, again, no costs.

The Department plans to sponsor five internal participants in 2012-13, and has set aside £10,000 from its learning and development budget to this end.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89213]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department employs apprentices in two ways—appointing apprentices through external recruitment and by offering existing staff access to apprenticeship programmes as part of their learning and development.

The Department externally recruited three apprentices between April 2010 and March 2011 and April and

December 2011. On completion of their apprenticeships in January 2012, the three apprentices joined the Department.

There are no specific plans to recruit apprentices externally in the coming year, but the Department is committed to providing development opportunities through apprenticeships.

On internal apprenticeships, six staff participated in 2010-11. No staff participated in 2011-12. The Department plans to sponsor five internal participants in 2012-13.

## Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88584]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department takes a proportionate approach to meeting its public sector equality duty which may not always entail producing separate documents called equality impact assessments. For each function or policy that has the potential to have a substantial effect on discrimination or equality of opportunity, officials consciously think about the three aims of the public sector equality duty as part of the process of decision-making and keep records showing how they have done so. Where it is clear from initial consideration that a policy will not have any effect on equality for any of the protected characteristics, no further analysis or action is undertaken.

Therefore listing the number of documents entitled equality impact assessments produced by the Department since May 2010 would provide an inaccurate account of the work done to meet the public sector equality duty. An accurate account of the entire range of work carried out to meet the public sector equality duty across the Department can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A list of documents entitled equality impact assessments that have been published by the Department since May 2010 is shown in the following table:

| *Date* | *Title* | *URL* |
|---|---|---|
| May 2010 | Transforming Community Services Mobile Working Readiness Assessment Framework Tool | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_116849.pdf |
| July 2010 | Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS (White Paper) | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_117350.pdf |
| July 2010 | The Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) Regulations 2010 | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_117787.pdf |
| October 2010 | Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control—Extending patient choice of provider | http://www.dh.gov.uk/dh_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_128460.pdf |
| October 2010 | NHS Constitution–Whistleblowing | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_130538.pdf |
| November 2010 | A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_121666.pdf |
| November 2010 | Improving services for women and child victims of violence: the Department of Health Action Plan | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122096.pdf |
| December 2010 | NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12 | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122955.pdf |
| December 2010 | PCT Resource Allocations 2011-12 | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_122617.pdf |
| January 2011 | Multiple Sclerosis Risk Sharing Scheme | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123789.pdf |

| *Date* | *Title* | *URL* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2011 | Expanding the list of "never events" | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_124988.pdf |
| February 2011 | Retention and Exit Terms for Business Case Critical Staff in PCTs and SHAs and (SpHAs, ENDPBs and Provider Development Authority) | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_124773.doc |
| February 2011 | Review of the Mary Seacole Scholarship Awards | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_125705.pdf |
| March 2011 | Safeguarding Adults: The role of health services | http://www.dh.gov.uk/dr_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_125065.pdf |
| March 2011 | The Good Practice Guidelines for GP electronic patient records—version 4 (2011) | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_125352.pdf |
| March 2011 | The UK Influenza Preparedness Strategy 2011 | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_125342.pdf |
| April 2011 | Changing Behaviour, Improving Outcomes: A new social marketing strategy for public health | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_126924.pdf |
| April 2011 | National Heatwave Plan | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_127193.pdf |
| April 2011 | Transparency in outcomes: a framework for quality in adult social care | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_125692.pdf |
| May 2011 | Allied Health Professionals Service Improvement Project | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_126839.pdf |
| May 2011 | Health Lives Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122242.pdf |
| June 2011 | Implementing the Overseas Visitors Hospital Charging Regulations 2011 | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_131943.pdf |
| June 2011 | NHS Operating Framework 2010-11 | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/@sta/@perf/documents/digitalasset/dh_110442.pdf |
| July 2011 | A new value-based approach to the pricing of branded medicines: Government response to consultation | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_128405.pdf |

| *Date* | *Title* | *URL* |
|---|---|---|
| **July 2011** | **Consultation on Allocation Options for distribution of additional funding to local authorities for: Local HealthWatch, NHS Complaints Advocacy, PCT Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/dr_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_129402.pdf** |
| **July 2011** | **National Dementia Strategy** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_128525.pdf** |
| **July 2011** | **The NHS standard contracts for acute hospital, mental health, community and ambulance services and supporting guidance 2011-12** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_128191.pdf** |
| **July 2011** | **Working for personalised care: a framework for supporting personal assistants working in adult social care** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_129407.pdf** |
| **August 2011** | **End of Life Care Strategy: Third Annual Report** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_130271.pdf** |
| **August 2011** | **Liberating the NHS: table of issues for the information revolution and related policies** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_129531.pdf** |
| **September 2011** | **Health and Social Care Bill 2011 (revised)** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_129978.pdf** |
| **September 2011** | **Proposals to introduce independent prescribing by physiotherapists** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_130059.pdf** |
| **September 2011** | **Proposals to introduce independent prescribing by podiatrists** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_130033.pdf** |
| **October 2011** | **Healthy lives, healthy people: a call to action on obesity in England** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_130511.pdf** |
| **October 2011** | **Implementing a 'Duty of Candour'; a new contractual requirement on providers** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_130442.pdf** |
| **October 2011** | **Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control—Choice of named consultant-led team** | **http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_130451.pdf** |

| *Date* | *Title* | *URL* |
|---|---|---|
| October 2011 | Market entry by means of pharmaceutical needs assessments and quality and performance (market exit) | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_130845.pdf |
| November 2011 | A framework for technology enhanced learning | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_131063.pdf |
| November 2011 | Cold Weather Plan for England | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_131036.pdf |
| December 2011 | Management of HIV-infected health care workers | http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_131572.pdf |

## Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Andy Burnham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many special advisers *(a)* are in paid employment and *(b)* work in his Department. [89161]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The names and salaries of special advisers can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

In addition to the three special advisers to the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), who are in paid employment at the Department, one of the advisers to the Prime Minister and one of the advisers to the Deputy Prime Minister have the use of desks and computers at Richmond House.

## Telephone Services

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of levels of compliance with his Department's directions to and subsequent regulations for strategic health authorities and primary care trusts on the use of non-geographical telephone numbers; and whether he is satisfied that the directions are preventing patients paying more than the equivalent cost of a geographical call. [89922]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has made no assessment of the level of compliance with the directions and regulations regarding the use of non-geographical numbers in the national health service.

The Department issued guidance and directions to NHS bodies in December 2009 on the cost of telephone calls, which prohibit the use of telephone numbers which charge the patient more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number to contact the NHS. It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that local practices are compliant with the directions and guidance.

## Disability: Children

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the Government last undertook research into the number of deafblind or multi-sensory impaired children in the UK; [88387]

(2) how many children in England have been identified as deafblind or multi-sensory impaired in each of the last five years; and how many such children have received a statutory assessment. [88388]

**Anne Milton:** The NHS Information Centre for health and social care published the report "Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People—Year ending 31 March 2011, in England" on 1 September 2011. The report has detail on the number of people registered as blind or partially sighted by age group as at 31 March for the period 1982 to 2011. Information is not available for each of the last five years nor on the number of children who have received a statutory assessment. The report is available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/blindpartiallysighted11

The following tables show the number of people aged 0-17 years who are registered blind or partially sighted who also have a hearing impediment. The data are a snapshot of the position on 31 March 2006, 2008 and 2011 in England. It should be noted that the registration of blindness is voluntary.

*Number of people aged 0-17 years registered blind who also have a hearing impairment, as at 31 March 2006, 2008 and 2011, England*[1]

*Rounded number*

| | *With additional disability of* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Of which:* | | |
| | *Deaf* | *With speech* | *Without speech* | *Hearing impediment* |
| 2011 | 50 | 20 | 30 | 95 |
| 2008 | 70 | 45 | 30 | 80 |
| 2006 | 70 | 35 | 35 | 55 |

[1] Estimates have not been made where a council has not been able to provide the information separately for those with an additional disability, therefore the table contains the total only from those councils from which returns were received.

*Notes:*

1. Data rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures for 2011 are based on actual returns received from 150 councils out of 152.
3. Figures for 2008 are based on actual returns received from 145 councils out of 150.
4. Figures for 2006 are based on actual returns received from 128 councils out of 150.

*Source:*

SSDA 902.

*Number of people aged 0-17 years registered partially sighted who also have a hearing impairment, as at 31 March 2006, 2008 and 2011, England*[1]

*Rounded number*

| | | *With additional disability of* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Of which:* | | |
| | *Deaf* | *With speech* | *Without speech* | *Hearing impediment* |
| 2011 | 55 | 25 | 30 | 90 |
| 2008 | 70 | 35 | 35 | 120 |
| 2006 | 50 | 25 | 25 | 80 |

[1] Estimates have not been made where a council has not been able to provide the information separately for those with an additional disability, therefore the table contains the total only from those councils from which returns were received.

*Notes:*

1. Data rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures for 2011 are based on actual returns received from 150 councils out of 152.
3. Figures for 2008 are based on actual returns received from 145 councils out of 150.
4. Figures for 2006 are based on actual returns received from 127 councils out of 150.

*Source:*

SSDA 902.

## Diseases: Health Services

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to introduce an NHS specialised service for patients with *(a)* atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome and *(b)* other rare diseases; [89469]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that patients with *(a)* atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome and *(b)* other rare diseases can access the latest treatments. [89470]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Ministers take advice from the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services (AGNSS) on which highly specialised services for very rare conditions should be commissioned once nationally. AGNSS is an independent stakeholder advisory group.

Ministers are currently considering the recommendations from AGNSS for new services which will join the national portfolio from April 2012. Decisions are expected shortly.

## Drugs: Rehabilitation

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if Public Health England will take steps to *(a)* collect data on or *(b)* estimate the total annual number of beds available in (i) NHS and (ii) voluntary settings to treat in-patient detoxification episodes in England; [88832]

(2) if Public Health England will take steps to *(a)* collect data on or *(b)* estimate the total annual number of beds available in (i) NHS and (ii) voluntary settings for the rehabilitation of chronic (A) alcohol and (B) drug misusers in England; [88833]

(3) how many non-statutory providers of residential treatment for *(a)* detoxification and *(b)* rehabilitation from chronic (i) alcohol and (ii) drug misuse are registered with his Department. [88834]

**Anne Milton:** Most, but not all, non-statutory providers of specialist residential drug treatment in England provide information on their services, including number of beds, on a voluntary basis, to a national online directory called Rehab Online, which is maintained by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse.

Most residential rehabilitation services, and therefore beds, treat drugs and alcohol dependency. Information from Rehab Online currently suggests that there about 120 residential rehabilitation providers. However, these data are incomplete because they do not include data from all non-statutory providers. Data on the number of non-statutory providers of residential detoxification, and rehabilitation in England are not currently available centrally.

The Department does not register treatment services, as it is the Care Quality Commission's responsibility to regulate-all health and social care services, including all non-statutory providers of residential detoxification and rehabilitation treatment in England.

## Epilepsy

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department requires specialised commissioners to take account of clinical guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence when commissioning services for treatment of severe epilepsy. [88859]

**Paul Burstow:** Clinical guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence represent best practice and the Government expect commissioners to take them fully into account in their decision-making.

## EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88971]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department of Health has brought into force the following secondary legislation in 2010 and 2011, which originated from proposals in the European Commission:

SI 2010/1673: The Medicines for Human Use (Prescribing by EEA Practitioners) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

SI 2010/1882: The Medicines for Human Use (Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2010

SI 2010/2785: The Medicines for Human Use (Prescribing by EEA Practitioners) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2010

SI 2011/915: The Medicinal Products (Herbal Remedies) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

There has been no primary legislation originated from proposals by the European Commission.

## Eyesight: Children

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on holding a nationwide review of the availability and effectiveness of vision screening for children. [88937]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy and supports implementation. The UK NSC is currently reviewing the evidence for school entry vision screening against its criteria. The work is at an early stage, but it is anticipated that the review will be ready for public consultation in the summer before a recommendation by the UK NSC is made to Ministers.

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged between four and five had their vision screened at school in the latest period for which figures are available. [88938]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### General Practitioners: Contracts

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has had discussions with the Scottish Government on its proposals for future arrangements for GP contracts in Scotland. [89120]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Officials from the four United Kingdom Health Departments meet on a regular basis to discuss GP contractual matters. The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), also holds discussions with his separate counterparts in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from time to time on a wide range of issues.

### Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome: Drugs

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of clinical trials of eculizumab in the treatment of Atypical hemolytic-uremic syndrome; and what steps he plans to take in response to such trials. [89558]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Eculizumab (Soliris) has undergone assessment for the indication of atypical haemolytic uremic syndrome via a Europe-wide centralised variation procedure. The Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use, as well as the Commission on Human Medicines (UK), considered and have recommended the granting of the extension of indication. Eculizumab is now licensed for the indication.

### Health Services: Finance

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the maximum duration will be of interim funding policies developed by specialised commissioning groups; and whether he proposes that *(a)* patients and *(b)* clinicians will have a right of appeal against decisions by his Department. [88860]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are not aware of any interim funding arrangements currently in existence.

During 2012-13, all money and accountability for the decision making processes for access to specialised services will remain under the control of primary care trusts (PCTs). Specialised commissioning groups are joint committees of PCTs. This is therefore a matter for the local national health service.

### Health Services: Foreign Nationals

**John Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients whose nationality was *(a)* unknown and *(b)* unrecorded were treated by the NHS in each of the last three financial years. [88946]

**Anne Milton:** The Department does not hold this information centrally.

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* EEA and *(b)* non-EEA visitors were treated by the NHS without charge in 2010-11. [89178]

**Anne Milton:** The Department does not hold this information.

Under European Union rules, European Economic Area and Swiss nationals temporarily visiting the United Kingdom can access treatment that is medically necessary free of charge under the national health service if they have a valid European Health Insurance Card. They can also access pre-planned treatment free of charge under the NHS if they have a valid E112 form. Under the same rules, the UK is entitled to be reimbursed by the home member state or Switzerland for this treatment.

**Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department offers to GP practices on the registration of foreign nationals who seek emergency treatment while visiting the UK. [89615]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Under the terms of their contracts, general practitioners (GPs) are required to provide emergency and immediately necessary treatment owing to an accident or emergency at any place in its practice area to anyone, regardless of whether they are registered or not (including foreign nationals). GPs are expected to exercise their clinical judgment as to what is emergency and immediately necessary treatment.

### Hearing Impaired: Children

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in Somerset were identified as *(a)* totally and *(b)* partially deaf in each of the last five years. [88436]

**Anne Milton:** The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

*Number of people aged 0 to 17 years on the Register of deaf or hard of hearing within Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset as at 31 March 2007 and 2010*

*Rounded numbers*

| | 2007 | | 2010 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Register of deaf* | *Register of hard of hearing* | *Register of deaf* | *Register of hard of hearing* |
| Somerset | 40 | 85 | • | 5 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | • | 0 | • | 0 |

*Number of people aged 0 to 17 years on the Register of deaf or hard of hearing within Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset as at 31 March 2007 and 2010*

*Rounded numbers*

| | *2007* | | *2010* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Register of deaf* | *Register of hard of hearing* | *Register of deaf* | *Register of hard of hearing* |
| North Somerset | * | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are provided as in the original publications; numbers less than six are suppressed and represented as a '*' on the table. Larger numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Data on the number of people registered as deaf or hard of hearing in England was compiled from the 'SSDA910 Register of People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing' return; data were submitted every three years as at 31 March by Councils with Social Services Responsibilities (CSSRs) to the NHS Information Centre. This collection has now ceased; following consultation, in September 2011.
3. Under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, Councils are required to compile and maintain classified registers of 'persons who are blind, deaf or dumb and other persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury, or congenital deformity'.
4. Although there are no formal examination procedures for determining whether a person is deaf or hard of hearing for the purposes of Section 29, cases should be classified as follows:

Deaf—those who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing.

Hard of hearing—those who (with or without a hearing aid) have some useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by speech, listening and lip reading.

5. Since registration is voluntary these figures will not provide a complete picture of the numbers of people aged 0 to 17 years in Somerset who are deaf or hard of hearing.
6. People who are registered as deaf or hard of hearing that are also blind or partially sighted are recorded on the Register of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons (SSDA 902 form) and are therefore not included in these figures.

*Source:*

SSDA 910

## Heart Diseases: Young People

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the frequency of incidence of young sudden cardiac death; [89622]

(2) what steps he is taking to make cardiac screening accessible to young people. [89623]

**Mr Simon Burns:** In March 2005, the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease was extended with a new chapter that provides models of care and markers of quality for arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death.

The Department works closely with national health service and charitable organisations such as Cardiac Risk in the Young and the British Heart Foundation to develop services aimed at identifying people at risk and providing them with appropriate counselling, advice information and psychological support.

The Department supported the formation of the UK Cardiac Pathology Network (UKCPN) in order to provide local coroners with an expert cardiac pathology service and to promote best pathological practice in sudden death cases. A national database on sudden arrhythmic death was launched in November 2008 funded by the Department allowing UKCPN pathologists to record information on cases referred to them.

The UK National Screening Committee, who advise Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy, considered its policy for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy screening in 2008. The policy review concluded that the evidence did not support the introduction of screening. The policy is due be reviewed again in 2012-13.

## Circle Health

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to require additional inspections of patients services at *(a)* Hinchingbrooke Hospital and *(b)* other facilities operated by Circle Health by the Care Quality Commission. [89597]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care providers in England. All providers of regulated activities must be registered with the CQC and meet the registration requirements.

The CQC is responsible for developing and consulting on its methodology for assessing whether providers are meeting the registration requirements. This includes determining when and how providers are inspected.

The CQC has a duty to ensure that any action it takes is proportionate to the risks to which it is addressed and is targeted only where it is needed.

## Hospital Beds

**Sarah Newton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department collects data on the number of acute care patients aged over 75 years who are delayed in being discharged from hospital. [89069]

**Paul Burstow:** This information is no longer collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, the last data that were published before 2011-12 for delayed transfers of care of acute care patients aged over 75 are shown in the following tables:

*Delayed transfers of care of acute patients. National health service organisations, England*

*Delayed transfers of care of acute patients—adults (75+)*

| | | *2010-11* | | | | *2011-12* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Code* | *Name* | *Quarter 1* | *Quarter 2* | *Quarter 3* | *Quarter 4* | *Quarter 1* | *Quarter 2* |
| | England | 1,790 | 1,610 | 1,769 | 1,806 | — | — |
| Q30 | North East | 67 | 45 | 50 | 49 | — | — |
| Q31 | North West | 160 | 138 | 149 | 165 | — | — |
| Q32 | Yorkshire and The Humber | 140 | 107 | 161 | 213 | — | — |
| Q33 | East Midlands | 169 | 124 | 149 | 116 | — | — |
| Q34 | West Midlands | 298 | 289 | 316 | 273 | — | — |
| Q35 | East of England | 244 | 231 | 178 | 206 | — | — |
| Q36 | London | 142 | 132 | 139 | 180 | — | — |

*Delayed transfers of care of acute patients. National health service organisations, England*

*Delayed transfers of care of acute patients—adults (75+)*

| | | | | | *2010-11* | | *2011-12* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Code* | *Name* | *Quarter 1* | *Quarter 2* | *Quarter 3* | *Quarter 4* | *Quarter 1* | *Quarter 2* |
| Q37 | South East Coast | 165 | 184 | 150 | 148 | — | — |
| Q38 | South Central | 178 | 180 | 254 | 232 | — | — |
| Q39 | South West | 228 | 180 | 222 | 225 | — | — |

*Delayed transfers of care of acute patients—adults (18+)*

| | | *2010-11* | | | | *2011-12* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Code* | *Name* | *Quarter 1* | *Quarter 2* | *Quarter 3* | *Quarter 4* | *Quarter 1* | *Quarter 2* |
| | England | 2,356 | 2,195 | 2,347 | 2,392 | 2,241 | 2,352 |
| Q30 | North East | 88 | 57 | 59 | 77 | 71 | 89 |
| Q31 | North West | 220 | 195 | 227 | 248 | 236 | 293 |
| Q32 | Yorkshire and The Humber | 183 | 169 | 194 | 281 | 254 | 230 |
| Q33 | East Midlands | 206 | 171 | 187 | 162 | 178 | 218 |
| Q34 | West Midlands | 415 | 436. | 417 | 395 | 344 | 342 |
| Q35 | East of England | 287 | 281 | 212 | 247 | 239 | 236 |
| 036 | London | 216 | 191 | 209 | 229 | 236 | 250 |
| Q37 | South East Coast | 206 | 227 | 205 | 176 | 205 | 210 |
| Q38 | South Central | 249 | 244 | 323 | 295 | 182 | 215 |
| Q39 | South West | 286 | 223 | 314 | 281 | 297 | 270 |

*Notes:*

1. Summary: An estimate of the average number of delayed transfers of care per day in the quarter by region.
2. Period: April 2010 to September 2011.

*Source:*

Department of Health: Unify2 data collection.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of hospital acquired infection. [89354]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government have set a zero tolerance approach to all avoidable health care associated infections. The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2012-13 (published 24 November 2011) reinforces our approach, and sets new objectives to drive further improvements in Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream and Clostridium difficile infections.

The objectives seek to achieve a further 29% reduction in MRSA bloodstream infections and a further 18% in C. difficile infections by April 2013 (over the October 2010 to September 2011 baseline period). Those organisations with the highest rates of these infections will be required to make the largest reductions in 2012-13 with the aim to raise standards across the national health service for all patients.

### Invalid Vehicles: Standards

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Pride Colt 8 mobility scooter is subject to a British Standards check. [88104]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The regulation of mobility scooters, as medical devices, falls within the responsibility of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an executive agency of the Department of Health. The Department has not commissioned any safety checks on any model of mobility vehicle.

The MHRA does not commission safety checks on mobility scooters prior to placement on the market. Mobility scooters are Class I medical devices and, as such, the manufacturer is permitted to self-declare conformance with the Essential Requirements of the Medical Device Directives and apply a CE mark to their product. Once a manufacturer has CE-marked a medical device, then they are permitted to sell the product throughout the European Union. The Medical Device Directives require a manufacturer to report all adverse incidents involving serious injury or death, or with the potential to cause serious injury or death, to the MHRA (the UK Competent Authority for medical devices) through the vigilance system.

The MHRA has received a number of adverse incident reports concerning the Pride Colt 8 mobility scooter, some of which relate to a failure of the gearbox transaxle unit and this resulted in a modification to the design in September 2010. Also, a more recent adverse incident report concerning the possible reliability of the electrical systems in damp conditions was received by the MHRA in September 2011.

### Medicine: Licensing

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the *(a)* quantity and *(b)* monetary value of medicines that are awaiting Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency licensing for importation from the EU; [88800]

(2) if he will estimate the proportion of medicines awaiting Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency licensing for importation from the EU that are within three months of their expiry date. [88801]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The commercial details of contracts between parallel importers and their suppliers in Europe are confidential and the Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has no access to this information, which has no regulatory significance and is not required information for the purpose of obtaining a parallel import licence.

The decision to purchase stock prior to approval of a parallel import licence is a commercial decision which the importer must make after careful consideration of all factors, including the available shelf life on the product. This information is commercially confidential and the MHRA has no access to it.

MHRA has no plan to make any estimates relating to confidential planned trade.

### Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency: Finance

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the fee income was of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will estimate the proportion of its budget this income represented. [88802]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The statutory fee income of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the most recent year for which figures are available (2010-11) was £90 million.

The proportion of its budget this income represented is 90%.

### Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency: Manpower

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of staffing at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency; and what assessment he has made of the ability of the agency to meet the needs of businesses within the industry. [88799]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has sufficient staffing levels to reflect business needs and respond effectively to the industry it regulates. Staffing levels are kept under constant review and are subject to the terms of the trading fund arrangements and broader Government policies on efficiency.

### Mental Health Services: Standards

**Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mental health provider quality accounts for 2010-11; [88662]

(2) if he will amend the guidance for mental health provider quality accounts to ensure mental health providers include performance against *(a)* Health of the Nation Outcome Scales, *(b)* Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Standards, *(c)* Care Quality Commission inspections and *(d)* the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation Framework in their quality accounts for 2011-12. [88663]

**Paul Burstow:** Policy on quality accounts is kept under regular review. In the light of recent experience, we plan to increase the standardised content in order to facilitate comparison between providers, to support external audit, and to improve provider boards' understanding of the link between the quality of their services and the outcomes that matter to patients. The selection of indicators will be informed by the recently revised NHS outcomes framework. This mandatory reporting will apply to all NHS trusts and foundation trusts, including those that provide mental health services.

### Mental Illness

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. [89371]

**Paul Burstow:** The primary responsibility for ensuring the effective and appropriate use of section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 lies with the relevant local agencies. The Mental Health Act 1983 code of practice makes clear that locally agreed policies should include arrangements for effective monitoring of how, in what circumstances and with what outcome, section 136 is being used locally.

The use of place of safety orders under section 136 of the 1983 Act also falls within the remit of the Care Quality Commission (CQC). In its "Mental Health Act Annual Report 2010/11" the CQC noted that the number of people detained under section 136 in England rose from 12,038 in 2009-10 to 14,111 in 2010-11.

*Source:*

The Health and Social Care Information Centre, "In-patients formally detained under the Mental Health Act 1983—and patients subject to supervised community treatment, Annual figures, England 2010/11" (October 2011.)

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to *(a)* raise awareness of and *(b)* combat stigma about mental illness. [89978]

**Paul Burstow:** Over the last three years, Comic Relief and the Big Lottery have funded a major anti-stigma programme, Time to Change, led by the charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness and evaluated by the Institute of Psychiatry. The programme of 35 projects aims to inspire people to work together to end the discrimination surrounding mental illness. The programme is based on international evidence and engages with people with direct experience of mental health problems. Support for the programme has come from individuals, politicians, employers, sports organisations and national health service trusts, among others.

As a result of people being made aware of Time to Change and subsequently being better informed about mental health issues, there has been a positive behaviour change. Time to Change have estimated that from phase one of their campaign, approximately 75,000 fewer people lost a job due to mental health discrimination in 2010 compared to 2008.

Overall, public attitudes to mental illness are improving and people with mental health problems are experiencing less discrimination. Over the past two years, approximately

78,000 people with mental health problems who had contact with Time to Change have increased knowledge, confidence and assertiveness to challenge discrimination.

Discussions with voluntary and private sector organisations have shown that there is an appetite for continuing and developing this anti-stigma programme. In the mental health strategy, "No Health without Mental Health", we committed to supporting and working actively with Time to Change and other partners on reducing stigma for people of all ages and backgrounds. Departmental funding of up to £16 million has been earmarked to support the programme over years 2011-12 to 2014-15. Comic Relief have agreed to work in partnership with Government and provide funds of £4 million over the same period.

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the budget provided to the NHS is allocated for researching the *(a)* causes and treatments of (i) schizophrenia, (ii) depression and (iii) other serious mental illness and *(b)* the psychological and social impact of mental illness. [89979]

**Paul Burstow:** Estimated spend by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in 2010-11 on directly-funded research relating to the causes and treatments of schizophrenia, depression and other serious mental illness, and relating to the psychological and social impact of mental illness is shown in the following table as a proportion of total directly-funded NIHR research.

| *2010-11* | *Proportion of total directly-funded NIHR research (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| Schizophrenia | 1.7 |
| Depression | 1.9 |
| Other serious mental illness | 5.3 |
| Psychological and social impact of mental illness | 1.6 |

In addition, the NIHR clinical research network provided national health service research infrastructure support to a wide range of trials and other clinical studies in mental illness.

### Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts prescribed Nabiximols between April and November 2011; and what quantity was prescribed in each such case. [89088]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Sativex is the only licensed form of Nabiximols in the United Kingdom. It is classified in the British National Formulary section 10.2.2 Skeletal muscle relaxants, under the chemical name cannabis extract.

Between April and October 2011, the latest month for which figures are available, 115 out of the 151 primary care trusts (PCTs) in England issued prescriptions for "sativex" or its generic alternative, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, that were dispensed in the community in the UK. The issuing PCTs and associated number of prescription items are shown in the table.

*Number of prescription items for Sativex or its generic alternative that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the UK, by PCT—April to October 2011*

| *Name* | *Number of items[1]* |
|---|---|
| Barnet | 5 |
| Bedfordshire | 6 |
| Berkshire East | 4 |
| Berkshire West | 36 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 30 |
| Birmingham East and North | 5 |
| Blackburn with Darwen CTP | 1 |
| Blackpool | 11 |
| Bolton | 4 |
| Bournemouth and Poole Teaching | 10 |
| Brighton and Hove City | 12 |
| Bristol | 4 |
| Bromley | 7 |
| Buckinghamshire | 24 |
| Calderdale | 19 |
| Cambridgeshire | 13 |
| Camden | 4 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire | 18 |
| Central Lancashire | 22 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 3 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 6 |
| County Durham | 44 |
| Coventry Teaching | 4 |
| Croydon | 17 |
| Cumbria Teaching | 35 |
| Derby City | 2 |
| Derbyshire County | 7 |
| Devon | 29 |
| Doncaster | 1 |
| Dorset | 13 |
| Dudley | 5 |
| Ealing | 14 |
| East Lancashire Teaching | 11 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 14 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald | 4 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent | 17 |
| Enfield | 7 |
| Gloucestershire | 16 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney | 17 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 14 |
| Halton and St Helens | 8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 7 |
| Hampshire | 62 |
| Hastings and Rother | 7 |
| Havering | 1 |
| Heart of Birmingham | 1 |
| Herefordshire | 11 |
| Hertfordshire | 13 |
| Hillingdon | 13 |
| Hounslow | 3 |
| Hull Teaching | 7 |
| Isle of Wight NHS | 1 |
| Islington | 8 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 23 |
| Knowsley | 7 |
| Lambeth | 12 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland | 2 |
| Lewisham | 12 |
| Lincolnshire | 26 |

*Number of prescription items for Sativex or its generic alternative that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the UK, by PCT—April to October 2011*

| *Name* | *Number of items*[1] |
|---|---|
| Luton | 9 |
| Manchester | 13 |
| Mid Essex | 14 |
| Milton Keynes | 3 |
| Newcastle | 2 |
| Newham | 5 |
| Norfolk | 20 |
| North East Essex | 6 |
| NE Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus | 1 |
| North Lancashire Teaching | 30 |
| North Lincolnshire | 5 |
| North Staffordshire | 11 |
| North Tyneside | 3 |
| North Yorkshire and York | 25 |
| Northamptonshire Teaching | 51 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 25 |
| Nottingham City | 5 |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching | 15 |
| Oxfordshire | 11 |
| Plymouth Teaching | 1 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching | 12 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | 1 |
| Sandwell | 16 |
| Sefton | 3 |
| Sheffield | 10 |
| Shropshire County | 4 |
| Solihull | 2 |
| Somerset | 1 |
| South Birmingham | 19 |
| South East Essex | 22 |
| South Staffordshire | 14 |
| South Tyneside | 6 |
| South West Essex | 17 |
| Southampton City | 4 |
| Southwark | 1 |
| Stockport | 5 |
| Stoke on Trent | 1 |
| Suffolk | 16 |
| Surrey | 57 |
| Sutton and Merton | 7 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 18 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 4 |
| Tower Hamlets | 5 |
| Walsall Teaching | 6 |
| Waltham Forest | 4 |
| Wandsworth Teaching | 2 |
| Warrington | 2 |
| Warwickshire | 10 |
| West Essex | 5 |
| West Kent | 60 |
| West Sussex | 61 |
| Western Cheshire | 4 |
| Wiltshire | 6 |
| Wirral | 7 |
| Wolverhampton City | 11 |
| Worcestershire | 3 |
| Total—England | 1,420 |

*Number of prescription items for Sativex or its generic alternative that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the UK, by PCT—April to October 2011*

[1] Prescriptions are written on a prescription form known as a FP10. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item. An item does not refer to the amount being prescribed and therefore an item could be a number of doses, a single vial or multiple vials.

*Source:*

Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system.

### Muscular Dystrophy: Health Services

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he has put in place for the implementation phase of the national neuromuscular work plan from April 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88865]

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he has made for the implementation phase of the national neuromuscular work plan from April 2012; and if he will make a statement. [89174]

**Paul Burstow:** The national neuromuscular work plan is currently been consulted on prior to being finalised by April 2012.

The 10 specialised commissioning groups that commission specialised services for their regional populations will be responsible for ensuring implementation of the national plan from April 2012 onwards.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the recent audit conducted by Professor Michael Hanna at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, what steps he is taking to reduce the number of avoidable emergency admissions for neuromuscular conditions; and if he will make a statement. [88866]

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the recent audit by Professor Michael Hanna at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, what steps he is taking to reduce the number of avoidable emergency admissions for neuromuscular conditions; and if he will make a statement. [89173]

**Paul Burstow:** Reduction of avoidable emergency admissions will require improvements in services for neuromuscular conditions to be made at both a local and regional level.

Currently, primary care trusts have the responsibility for ensuring that local services meet the needs of people living with these conditions. The proposed move to clinical commissioning groups will ensure that health professionals will have a greater responsibility for the commissioning of appropriate local services to better meet the needs of patients with neuromuscular conditions.

During 2010-11, the 10 regional Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) and National Specialised Commissioning team collaborated to produce a detailed work plan for improving the commissioning of neuromuscular services.

A workshop to which patents, carers and support organisations were invited was held in December 2011. At this workshop the SCGs presented draft service specifications for neuromuscular services. These service specifications, which set out the standards of service that all neuromuscular patients in England should expect to receive, will be consulted on and then finalised by April 2012, when the SCGs will start to implement them.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to appoint a national lead for specialist neuromuscular care; and if he will make a statement. [88867]

**Paul Burstow:** In December 2011 the 10 specialised commissioning groups held a workshop to present their draft service specifications for neuromuscular services. At this workshop they announced their intention to appoint a national lead for specialist neuromuscular care. The Department is not involved in this appointment.

### Prescription Drugs: Prices

**Neil Parish:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to extend the provisions for reimbursement set out in part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff to dispensing doctors when dispensing specials; [88936]

(2) what plans he has to extend the £20 fixed rate of reimbursement set out in Part VIIIB of the Drug Tariff to dispensing doctors when dispensing specials. [88863]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Discussions between the General Practitioners' Committee of the British Medical Association and NHS Employers are ongoing. Once those negotiations have been concluded and Ministers have considered the outcome, an announcement will be made.

### Social Services: Costs

**Kwasi Kwarteng:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the cost of social care provision. [88830]

**Paul Burstow:** Local authorities are accountable for delivering efficiency savings in adult social care, but the Department has worked with the sector to consider the opportunities to reduce costs. To this end, the Department has part-funded a programme of Adult Social Care Efficiency launched by the Local Government Association in November 2011.

Furthermore, in November 2010 the Department published "A Vision for Adult Social Care" outlining a number of suggestions for areas where local authorities could make efficiency savings. Among others, these included:

maximising the potential of reablement services;

developing an integrated crisis or rapid response services;

rolling out telecare support; and

minimising back office administration.

As a result of wishing to keep local authorities free of additional burdens, the Department does not collect its own data on efficiency savings. However, other sources including the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services budget survey suggest that efficiencies are being delivered successfully, without unduly affecting frontline services.

### Telemedicine: Prisons

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of likely savings from increased use of telemedicine technologies in prisons; [87942]

(2) what plans his Department has to use telemedicine in the prison service. [87943]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department has made no recent assessment into the potential savings which could be made from an increased use of telemedicine in prisons, nor does it currently plan to promote the use of this technology within prisons.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are currently responsible for commissioning health care in prisons and each PCT with a prison population should assess the needs of its prison population, review what services are required and how they should be delivered. Decisions on whether to use telemedicine technologies in prisons are made by PCTs and prison partnerships, not by the Department.

### Visual Impairment: Driving

**Rebecca Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that *(a)* optometrists and *(b)* other medical practitioners inform (i) the police and (ii) the DVLA if they believe a patient to be unfit to drive. [88888]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There is a legal obligation, under section 94(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, on the applicant/licence holder to notify, at any time, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) of any medical condition, which may affect their fitness to drive.

The DVLA publishes advice on the medical standards of fitness to drive in a booklet (At a Glance Guide to the current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive) which is available to all general practitioners and health care professionals. It is also available for public use on DVLA's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/medical/ataglance.aspx

While there is no legal obligation on doctors and optometrists to notify the police or the DVLA, they do have a duty of care, not only to their patient but also to the general public. The General Medical Council has published guidance on reporting concerns about patients to the DVLA or Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) in Northern Ireland. The College of Optometrists' Code of Ethics and Guidance for Professional Conduct (July 2011) quotes the General Medical Council guidance.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Allotments

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* allotment and *(b)* smallholdings authorities there were in the most recent year for which data are available. [89133]

**Andrew Stunell:** Information on the number of *(a)* allotment and *(b)* smallholdings authorities in England is not held by central Government.

Allotment surveys undertaken by West Kirby Transition Town in conjunction with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners show that there are 323 English principal authorities that manage allotments (county councils do not manage allotments) and over 8,700 parish and town councils (who are not covered by this survey). The survey does not extend to cover smallholdings authorities nor does it cover allotments owned by other public bodies, or by private allotment associations. The survey can be downloaded from:

http://www.transitiontownwestkirby.org.uk/allotment_surveys.html

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data his Department collect from allotment authorities. [89134]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department does not collect any data from allotment authorities. Local authorities are responsible for keeping and managing waiting lists for allotments they provide. Information on waiting lists and the total number of allotments provided by local authorities is not held centrally.

However, the Department does retain, via the national planning casework unit, information from local authorities on their disposal application cases that they are required to put to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles).

### Biofuels

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of permitted development rights for *(a)* biomass and *(b)* anaerobic digestion; and if he will make a statement. [89289]

**Robert Neill:** We are considering responses to a consultation which included proposals to introduce permitted development rights for the installation of flues for biomass systems on non-domestic premises and clarifying that permitted development rights are available for the erection of structures to house anaerobic digestion systems on agricultural and forestry land.

### Business Improvement Districts

**John Stevenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many business improvement districts there are. [89062]

**Robert Neill:** The 'British Business Improvement Districts' website shows that there are currently 123 formal Business Improvement Districts across the UK.

### Charities: Shops

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of retail sales made by charity shops in the west midlands in each of the last five years. [89300]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government do not hold data on the level of retail sales made by charity shops.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89406]

**Robert Neill:** The Department currently employs one full-time speechwriter at pay band 7.1.

I also refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 482W, which outlines the savings my Department is making in the field of communications.

### Empty Property: Shops

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he is taking to increase footfall on high streets with high levels of empty buildings; and if he will make a statement; [89299]

(2) what assessment he has made of the role of *(a)* charity shops and *(b)* local independent traders in (i) increasing footfall and (ii) supporting efforts to regenerate the high street; and if he will make a statement. [89301]

**Grant Shapps:** Mary Portas published her independent review of the high street in December. Her report addresses the issues raised of empty buildings, increasing footfall, local independent traders, charity shops and what needs to be done to develop more prosperous and diverse high streets. The Government are considering the recommendations made in the report and will publish their response in the spring.

### Fire Services: Somerset

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the Memorandum of Understanding between Devon and Somerset Fire Brigade and Falck EMS UK Ltd on the ability of the fire service to discharge its *(a)* statutory and *(b)* non-statutory duties; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding. [89936]

**Robert Neill:** My Department has made no assessment on the potential effects of the Memorandum of Understanding between Devon and Somerset Fire Brigade and Falck EMS UK Ltd since this is a matter for the fire and rescue authority. We do not hold a copy of the memorandum.

### First-time Buyers

**Paul Uppal:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure that providing first-time property buyers with a partial mortgage guarantee does not reduce access to the housing market for existing property owners. [89061]

**Grant Shapps:** My Department is supporting the industry-led new build mortgage indemnity scheme. The scheme will apply to new build properties from participating builders and will be available to all potential buyers, subject to appropriate underwriting and selection criteria. This will include existing property owners who want to move house and buy a new build property.

Approximately 14% of transactions in England in 2010 were for new build properties. The scheme is intended to help builders to build more new homes, and support people to buy them.

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has any plans to provide additional support for shared equity schemes for first-time buyers. [89089]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government provides support to first-time buyers in partnership with housebuilders through the FirstBuy shared equity scheme. FirstBuy will help almost 10,500 aspiring home owners by 2013 with a 20% equity loan to purchase a new build property in England. The equity loan reduces the deposit required by purchasers enabling them to fulfil their aspirations of home ownership.

Housing associations and other registered providers may offer equity loans through the Affordable Homes Programme until 2015, where they meet local needs and have the support of the local authority.

### Green Belt

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to ensure that current protection for the green belt is not lost following the changes to the planning system due to come into effect in April 2012. [87755]

**Greg Clark:** The Government have clearly stated their commitment to maintaining the green belt, and the draft National Planning Policy Framework continues the same key protections as current green belt policy. Our proposed abolition of the unpopular regional strategies, through the Localism Act, will remove top-down pressure on councils to review the extent of their green belt. This was likely to affect more than 30 areas across England. Our revision to planning guidance on Traveller sites, currently in draft, proposes to strengthen protection of the green belt and open countryside.

### Housing: Construction

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of new homes built on land classified as gardens since 1997. [89291]

**Greg Clark:** The following table shows the percentage of dwellings built on previously-residential land since 1997 which includes gardens and land on which dwellings have been demolished.

| | *Percentage of new dwellings built on previously-residential land*[1, 2] |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 11 |
| 1998 | 12 |
| 1999 | 12 |
| 2000 | 15 |
| 2001 | 15 |
| 2002 | 15 |
| 2003 | 16 |
| 2004 | 19 |
| 2005 | 20 |
| 2006 | 22 |
| 2007 | 27 |
| 2008 | 24 |
| 2009 | 28 |
| 2010$^{p}$ | 23 |

[1] As reported by Ordnance Survey, mainly excluding conversions.

[2] Includes development on gardens and after demolition of dwellings.

*Source:*

Land Use Change Statistics Live Table 221

Until June 2010, gardens were classified as brownfield sites, despite their contribution to the environment, biodiversity, and local character. In June 2010, the coalition Government amended the definition of brownfield sites to exclude gardens to give councils greater powers to prevent unwanted garden grabbing.

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 59-60W, on housing, what estimate he has made of the number of square miles of land needed for additional households by 2033. [89495]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department does not estimate the amount of land needed for additional households. However, the Department publishes household projections, which are a trend-based view of the number of households that would form given a projected population and previous demographic trends. Local authorities should use the household projections as a part of the evidence base for assessing future housing demand, including the amount of land needed to accommodate that housing.

### Housing: Students

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to increase the *(a)* quality and *(b)* quantity of student accommodation provided by private sector landlords. [89317]

**Andrew Stunell:** The current legislative framework already contains robust safeguards for all private tenants, including students. Local authorities already have extensive powers to take action against landlords letting poor quality accommodation. We are working closely with them to ensure that any barriers to them using those powers are lifted.

At the same time we have seen a significant increase in the overall supply of private rented accommodation over the last few years: by 2010, the sector had expanded to house some 3.4 million households in England—an increase of one million since 2005. We have supported this increase by refusing to impose unnecessary additional regulation on the sector and encouraging increased investment. In the 2011 Budget, we announced changes to stamp duty land tax on bulk purchases and a commitment to look again at the rules on real estate investment trusts in time for this year's Budget. The recently announced independent review of barriers to institutional investment in the sector which will be led by Sir Adrian Montague will build on that work.

### Landlords: Blackpool

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has *(a)* received representations from and *(b)* had discussions with Blackpool council on selective licensing for landlords. [89940]

**Grant Shapps:** The Department has received no representations and has held no meetings with Blackpool council regarding the selective licensing of privately rented properties since the general consent for introducing such schemes was introduced in April 2010.

### Local Development Frameworks

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps local communities can take to secure revisions in the local development frameworks of local authorities. [89654]

**Robert Neill:** In preparing local plans, the Government are encouraging councils to conduct early and meaningful engagement with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses. Local councils are able to revise their local plans or prepare a new plan at any time. When they do so, they are required by planning law to consult on its preparation and local communities can take such opportunities to seek revisions. Councils must submit their plan for independent examination, and any person who makes representations seeking to change a plan must be given the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the person carrying out the examination.

The Localism Act 2011 provides significant new powers for communities to prepare their own neighbourhood plan for their area. A neighbourhood plan would become a part of the statutory development plan following consultation, independent examination and a successful referendum, and form part of the basis of decisions on planning applications.

### Local Government Act 1972

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to bring forward his proposal to repeal section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 for approval. [82328]

**Grant Shapps:** We plan to publish a consultation document proposing the repeal of section 150(5) shortly. We will be proposing procedures for implementing the repeal that will ensure that parish councils have the benefit of this important reform as quickly as possible.

### Local Government Finance: Housing

**Jack Dromey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology his Department used to determine the level of top-slicing from the 2012-13 Formula Grant to fund the most recent new homes bonus allocations. [89180]

**Robert Neill:** We have allocated almost £1 billion of additional funding to support the new homes bonus over the spending review period, including £250 million for payments in 2012-13, with the rest due to be top-sliced from formula grant. As there was a two year formula grant settlement, in November 2010 we needed to estimate the size of the top-slice. The new homes bonus is based on the annual net increase in the stock of housing that is in use. It is therefore dependent on the change in net additions, long-term empty homes and council tax distribution of those units, plus a premium for affordable housing. Our estimate was based on historical data for each of these components. The provisional new homes bonus allocations in 2012-13 total £431 million, £5 million more than estimated, largely due to higher numbers of long-term empty properties being brought back into use. The remaining £5 million will come from DCLG departmental expenditure limit, but will be reclaimed from Local Government resource in 2013-14.

### Mortgages

**Angie Bray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether lending decisions made under the New Build scheme will be audited to ensure that lenders maintain high standards of lending; [89368]

(2) how any risk to the public purse will be minimised in the context of the Government's mortgage indemnity guarantee; [89438]

(3) what processes will be put in place to ensure that lenders maintain high standards of lending for mortgage finance made available in the context of the new build scheme. [89439]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government announced their support for the industry-led new build indemnity scheme, as part of the Housing Strategy. The scheme will help credit worthy households access up to 95% loan to value mortgages, for new build homes and flats. This will enable up to 100,000 families and young people to buy their own home.

The Government are working closely with partners, including the Home Builders Federation, Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority to finalise the scheme's design. As a requirement of the scheme, mortgage approvals made available will remain subject to current regulatory requirements and lenders' existing approval criteria. In addition, the final scheme design will be agreed with the Financial Services Authority.

Monitoring arrangements will be put in place take account of the scheme's impact. The Government will also conduct an evaluation of the scheme after two years, to ensure that there has been an appropriate and positive effect on the price, demand and supply of new build properties.

### Piers: Redcar and Cleveland

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will provide funding for an additional traditional pier in Redcar and Cleveland. [88845]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* The development of new piers is a matter for local authorities and their partners. I would note that there are a number of funding schemes supported by the Government which may potentially assist regeneration in seaside towns, including the coastal communities fund, the European regional development fund and the regional growth fund.

I am placing in the Library a copy of the regeneration toolkit that has been published to accompany the Government's response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee report on regeneration (Cm 8264, January 2012).

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will provide funding for an additional traditional pier in Redcar and Cleveland for the purpose of promoting community cohesion. [88849]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today, PQ 88845.

### Planning

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Government plan to publish their response to the Draft National Planning Policy Framework. [88321]

**Greg Clark:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) of 14 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 661-62W.

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that local planning authorities produce local plans for their areas in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. [89119]

**Greg Clark:** The National Planning Policy Framework aims to strengthen decision making at the local level and reinforce the importance of local plans. We are currently considering the responses to the consultation on the draft Framework. We are committed to working closely with local councils and the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that appropriate transitional arrangements are in place to support the implementation of the Framework.

### Planning Permission: Leiston

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the proposal by Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council that those applying for planning permission for a large development in a town or parish council area should *(a)* attend town and parish council meetings regarding the application and *(b)* fund an independent assessment of the effect of the application if requested by the town or parish council; and if he will make a statement. [87410]

**Greg Clark** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* Consideration is still being given to the suggestion made by Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council. I would note that the Localism Act will introduce compulsory pre-application consultation on large-scale planning applications between prospective developers and local communities.

### Public Houses

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the contribution of public houses to community life. [90202]

**Robert Neill:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has not made a formal assessment of the contribution of public houses to community life.

However, the Government firmly believes that well-run community pubs contribute not only to the local economy, but also to the well-being of the local community, as they are social hubs bringing communities together and encouraging wider social action.

### Rents

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average rent as a proportion of average income was for people living in *(a)* social housing, *(b)* other affordable housing and *(c)* private rented accommodation in the latest period for which figures are available. [88513]

**Andrew Stunell:** It is estimated that, in England in 2009-10, the average rent as a proportion of the average income (excluding housing benefit) of *(a)* households in the social rented sector was 23%; and *(c)* households in the private rented sector was 25%. If housing benefit is included in the calculations of average income the proportions were 20% and 24% respectively. Data are not available for *(b)* other affordable housing.

These estimates are based on data from the 2009-10 English Housing Survey.

### Social Rented Housing

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the annual cost of tenancy fraud in social housing. [89373]

**Grant Shapps:** The National Fraud Authority estimates that tenancy fraud costs around £900 million per year. Replacing the social homes that are being unlawfully occupied—to house those who have effectively been displaced by tenancy fraudsters—would cost several billion pounds.

On 11 January, I issued a consultation which proposes measures that would increase the deterrent to tenants considering cheating the system, enable those who do cheat to be detected more easily and punished more severely, and encourage social landlords to take a more proactive approach to tackling social housing fraud. This will help to free up valuable social homes that can then be allocated to those in greatest need.

The consultation closes on 4 April 2012.

### Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision his Department has made for the payment of salaries paid by Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation after 31 March 2012. [89609]

**Robert Neill:** The running costs budget for the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Commission to cover final winding-up activity in 2012-13 is £760,000. This includes provision for payment of salaries after 31 March 2012.

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many board meetings the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation has held since 1 April 2011; and how many such meetings are scheduled. [89610]

**Robert Neill:** Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation has held six board meetings since 1 April 2011 (to 31 December 2011); and four more are scheduled between 1 January 2012 and the Corporation's dissolution.

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name is of each board member of the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation; on how many occasions each has attended a meeting of the board since 1 April 2011; and what salary has been or is to be paid to each in respect of the period from 1 April 2011 until dissolution of the corporation. [89611]

**Robert Neill:** The requested information can be found in the following table.

*Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation board member attendance and salaries*

| *Name of board member* | *Attendance out of six board meetings held between 1 April 2011 to end December 2011* | *Salary for 16 months from 1 April to 31 July 2012 (£)* | *Comments* |
|---|---|---:|---:|
| Will McKee (Chair) | 6 out of 6 | 65,196.00 | Term of office ends 31 July 2012 |
| Bill Samuel (Vice Chair) | 6 out of 6 | 48,976.00 | Term of office ends 31 July 2012 |
| Sunny Crouch | 6 out of 6 | 16,485.33 | Term of office ends 31 July 2012 |
| Councillor Garry Hague | 5 out of 6 | 9,273.00 | Term of office ended 31 December 2011 |
| Councillor John Kent | 5 out of 6 | 16,485.33 | Term of office ends 31 July 2012 |
| Chris Paveley | 5 out of 6 | 16,485.33 | Term of office ends 31 July 2012 |
| Richard Reynolds | 4 out of 6 | 16,485.33 | Term of office ends 31 July 2012 |
| Martin Leigh-Pollitt | 4 out of 6 | 12,364.00 | Term of office ends 31 March 2012 |
| Councillor Philip Anderson | Not board member until 1 January 2012 | 7,212.33 | Term of office from 1 January 2012 to 31 July 2012 |

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what land assets are to be transferred to Thurrock council by the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the assets. [89612]

**Robert Neill:** The land assets currently held by the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation are detailed in the following schedule; at 31 March 2011 (the date of their latest valuation) the monetary value of the assets in the Corporation's accounts was £56,749,000. If the Corporation's land ownership does not change before 31 March 2012, £56,749,000 would reflect the value of the land to be transferred to Thurrock council. However, this position is subject to change before 31 March 2012 as the Corporation is currently in the process of disposing of some of its land holdings, and acquiring others, as part of its continuing regeneration activity.

*Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation property in current ownership*

| *Property name* | *Address* |
|---|---|
| Purfleet Industrial Park | Unit 41/42/43, RM15 4YF |
| Purfleet Industrial Park | Unit 40, RM15 4YF |
| Wincanton Site | Botany Quarry, Purfleet, RM19 1SR |
| Tank Clean | Botany Quarry, Purfleet, RM19 1SR |
| Apex Site | Botany Quarry, Purfleet, RM19 1SR |
| EEEDA Site | Botany Quarry, Purfleet, RM19 1SR |
| CM Vintners | Botany Quarry, Purfleet, RM19 1SR |
| Killoughery Site | Botany Quarry, Purfleet, RM19 1SR |
| Carter and Ward | Botany Quarry, Purfleet, RM19 1SR |
| Hanson Boral Edenhall | Botany Quarry, Purfleet, RM19 1SR |
| Vopak | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 1LX |
| Corys Wharf | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 1LX |
| Smurfit Kappa | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 1LX |
| 11 Botany Cottages | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 1LX |
| 3 Railway Cottages | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 1LX |
| SGS | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 1PS |
| Cornwall House | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 1PS |
| MSK042 | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 1PS |
| Land Rear of 5/6 Botany Terrace | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 1PS |
| Kerneos Land | London Road, Purfleet, RM19 |
| Schoolfield Road Part 2 | Schoolfield Road, West Thurrock, RM20 3AE |
| Schoolfield Road Queensbridge Ind Park | Schoolfield Road, West Thurrock, RM20 3AE |
| Site 5 Olivers Road | Oliver Road, West Thurrock, RM20 |
| Lyndale Trading Estate | London Road, West Thurrock, RM20 |
| William Ball Limited | Gumley Road, South Stifford, Essex RM20 4XX |
| The Chase Cuttings | The Chase (off London Road South Stifford) |

*Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation property in current ownership*

| *Property name* | *Address* |
|---|---|
| D and C Morgan Builders | 469 London Road, South Stifford, Essex RM20 4AD |
| TA Centre | Brook Road, Grays, Essex |
| Crawley Grays Autos | Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QL |
| The British Legion Club | 78 High Street, Grays, RM17 6HU |
| Marston House | Grays, RM17 6HX |
| RMG | Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 |
| Old Post Office | 2-4 George Street, Grays, RM17 6NS |
| Thurrock Park Way | Tilbury, RM18 |
| Former LCR land—five minor plcts | Various locations |

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Business: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprises have received assistance from Government schemes in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in the last 18 months. [89369]

**Mr Prisk:** The total number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have received assistance from Government schemes is not available. However, information that is held at a constituency level on the number of SMEs supported under the Government's Solutions for Business portfolio, is set out in the following table:

| *Product* | *Bexleyheath and Crayford* | *Borough of Bexley* | *Comment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manufacturing Advisory Service | 2 | 5 | Figures are April 2010 to 30 September 2011). No MAS offering in this area between April to December 2011 inclusive |
| Access to finance | 6 | 14 | These figures are for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme only |
| Collaborative Research and Development product | 1 | 1 | Refers to new grants awarded to SMEs, not total number of SMEs assisted and so numbers are underestimated |

For other schemes under the Solutions for Business portfolio, such as Rural Development Programme for England, Helping your Business Grow Internationally and Work Place Training (including apprenticeships), Knowledge Transfer Networks, information is available only at a national level.

In addition, Government have funded the provision of a range of online information and assistance to SMEs through Business Link, including a regional advisory service, which was supported by England's regional development agencies but closed on 25 November 2011. Information on beneficiaries by constituency and borough is not available so figures for London, provided by the London Development Agency, are set out as follows:

London: 54,804.

### Business: Cybercrime

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the level of risk of cybercrime faced by small and medium-sized enterprises following the roll-out of super-fast broadband; and what assistance his Department plans to offer to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in this regard. [88403]

**Mr Prisk:** In November 2011 the Government published the national cyber security strategy "Protecting and Promoting the UK in a Digital World". The strategy makes it clear that the cyber crime threat to businesses is increasing and that there is a growing financial impact of information security incidents. While the Government are committed to delivering the best superfast broadband network in Europe, the roll-out of this will not in itself make small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) more vulnerable to online crime. But as SMEs increasingly turn to the web to deliver their products and services, they can become exposed to new threats. Maintaining confidence in e-commerce as a viable way of doing business is crucial. Investors, businesses, Government and customers each need to be confident that networks are safe to use if the UK is to realise its full potential for growth. It is then crucial that SMEs understand the risks of being online and know how to take action to protect themselves.

The Government have therefore committed £650 million over the next four years to help protect the UK in cyber space, including £63 million specifically to tackle computer-enabled crime. The cyber security strategy sets out a key objective for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to:

> "make the UK one of the most secure places in the world to do business in cyberspace."

BIS and other Government Departments and agencies are therefore undertaking a range of actions to support business, including working to:

Raise business awareness of the cyber threat and the actions they can take to protect themselves, including specific activities aimed at changing the behaviours of SMEs;

Develop a single Government portal for the provision of advice on internet safety to the public and businesses, building on "Get Safe Online";

Create a single reporting centre to allow the public and business to report computer-enabled crime, including expanding the Action Fraud website;

Create a specialist cyber crime unit within the National Crime Agency, building on the expertise of the Police Central e-crime Unit and the Serious Organised Crime Agency's (SOCA) e-crime unit;

Create a joint public/private sector hub to exchange actionable information on cyber threats and strengthen our response to incidents.

The full list of objectives and actions can be found in the cyber security strategy at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/protecting-and-promoting-uk-digital-world

### Business: Finance

**Eric Ollerenshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will *(a)* commission and *(b)* publish an analysis by region of the data in his Department's finance surveys of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), indicating regional variation in SME's access to bank lending. [89430]

**Mr Prisk:** Following a consultation on business finance in summer 2010, the Government worked with the banking industry to increase the data available on bank lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As a result, the British Bankers' Association's Business Finance Taskforce has commissioned a quarterly independent survey of business finance. The SME Finance Monitor will include analysis by region in its first annual report due to be published in March 2012. The survey is based on interviews with 5,000 SMEs each quarter across the UK, and the annual report will have a total sample size of around 15,000 SMEs. The quarterly reports and forthcoming annual reports are publically available at:

http://www.sme-finance-monitor.co.uk/

The Government have no current plans to commission additional analysis on this subject.

### Construction: Insolvency

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the construction industry of the provisions relating to payee insolvency contained in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009; and if he will make a statement. [89038]

**Mr Prisk:** The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 makes minor technical amendments to the provisions relating to insolvency which were contained in the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. Having introduced a general prohibition on "pay when paid" clauses in construction contracts, the 1996 Act allows their use in cases of insolvency. This is to ensure that same conditions on insolvency apply in construction contracts as in other commercial contracts. A feature of the UK's insolvency regime more generally is that, broadly speaking, the same rules apply to all entities across the economy to provide an element of certainty and predictability as to outcomes in the event of insolvency for those contracting with such entities.

### Credit: Interest Rates

**Sir Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2010, *Official Report,* column 819W, on loans, what progress has been made following the implementation of the Consumer Credit Directive on *(a)* tackling the effects of payday loans on those on low incomes and *(b)* removing credit licences and increasing penalties where there is proven irresponsibility by lenders. [89505]

**Mr Davey:** The Government acknowledge that there are real concerns about this type of lending and some of the practices that appear to blight this market. Payday lending is a key area of regulatory focus for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and it monitors the market for evidence of consumer detriment. The OFT has taken enforcement action against a number of companies in the payday loan market for breaches of its guidance but as the market has increased in size it has seen an increase in reported consumer harm. In light of the concerns about this market the OFT will be launching a comprehensive compliance review of its Irresponsible Lending Guidance that will specifically target the payday lending market. The review will focus on identifying those practices that are the cause of most harm to consumers and the findings will be used to take further enforcement action and drive up standards in this market. The OFT will also be increasing its scrutiny of applications for consumer credit licenses by those wishing to engage in this form of lending.

### Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89408]

**Mr Davey:** The Department employs two speechwriters, both at Grade 7.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89407]

**Mr Davey:** The Department has not issued specific advice to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of paid interns but if advice is sought from the Department, non-departmental public bodies are referred to "The Common Best Practice Guide for High Quality Internships" published by the Gateways to the Professions Collaborative Forum, a copy of which can be found on the BIS website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/higher-education/docs/c/11-1068-common-best-practice-code-for-quality-internships.pdf

### Employment Tribunals Service

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to *(a)* increase the period of employment required before an employee can claim unfair dismissal, *(b)* introduce protected conversations not open to legal scrutiny and *(c)* remove Tribunal members with employment experience. [89624]

**Mr Davey:** We will bring forward legislation to increase the qualification period for unfair dismissal from one to two years, and to allow employment judges to sit alone in unfair dismissal cases, shortly. We announced in November 2011 our intention to consult on the introduction of protected conversations. We are currently considering the detail of proposals and will consult on them later this year.

## EU Grants and Loans

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has been made of the total amount of funding made available to each UK region through the *(a)* European social fund and *(b)* EU Competitiveness and Employment programme in each of the last five years. [88635]

**Mr Prisk:** EU structural and cohesion funds (SCFs) are made available in seven-year funding periods. The current funding period runs from 2007-13. The allocations to the UK for the period 2007-13 are set out as follows. The figures include the European social fund (ESF); the European regional development fund (ERDF) Regional Competitiveness and Employment (RCE) programme allocation; and the ERDF Convergence programme allocation, for a complete picture.

| *Country* | *Operational programme* | *Fund* | *Allocation (€ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| England | North West—RCE | ERDF | 755.8 |
| England | Yorkshire and Humber—RCE | ERDF | 533.6 |
| England | North East—RCE | ERDF | 375.7 |
| England | East Midlands—RCE | ERDF | 268.5 |
| England | West Midlands—RCE | ERDF | 399.9 |
| England | East of England—RCE | ERDF | 111.0 |
| England | London—RCE | ERDF | 181.9 |
| England | South East—RCE | ERDF | 23.7 |
| England | South West—RCE | ERDF | 124.7 |
| England | Cornwall and Isles of Scilly—Convergence | ERDF | 458.1 |
| Total England | | | 3,282.9 |
| | | | |
| Wales | West Wales and Valleys—Convergence | ERDF | 1,250.4 |
| Wales | Rest of Wales—RCE | ERDF | 72.4 |
| Total Wales | | | 1,322.8 |
| | | | |
| Scotland | Highlands and Islands—RCE | ERDF | 121.8 |
| Scotland | Lowlands and Uplands—RCE | ERDF | 376.0 |
| Total Scotland | | | 497.8 |
| | | | |
| Northern Ireland | RCE | ERDF | 306.8 |
| | | | |
| Gibraltar | RCE | ERDF | 5.8 |
| Total UK | RCE and Convergence | ERDF | 5,416.1 |
| | | | |
| England and Gibraltar | Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | ESF | 196.4 |
| England and Gibraltar | Rest of England and Gibraltar | ESF | 2,893.5 |
| Total England and Gibraltar | | | 3,089.9 |
| | | | |
| Wales | West Wales and Valleys | ESF | 833.6 |
| Wales | Rest of Wales | ESF | 63.6 |
| Total Wales | | | 897.2 |
| | | | |
| Scotland | Highlands and Islands | ESF | 52.2 |
| Scotland | Lowlands and Uplands | ESF | 269.9 |
| Total Scotland | | | 322.1 |
| | | | |
| Northern Ireland | | ESF | 165.8 |
| Total UK | | ESF | 4,475.0 |
| Total UK | SCFs Allocation | ERDF and ESF | [1]9,891 |

[1] Figure takes account of rounding up of figures above.

This table does not include an additional €722 million ERDF funding allocated to transnational programmes (Interreg and PEACE) rather than to specific regionally-based UK-only programmes.

## EU Grants and Loans: Northern Ireland

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of EU funding allocated to be spent in Northern Ireland was *(a)* passed on as additional funding to the Northern Ireland Executive and *(b)* retained by the Exchequer in each of the last five years. [88375]

**Mr Prisk:** Northern Ireland receives EU funds from a number of different programmes within the EU budget. The terms and conditions of these funds vary depending on intended purpose. Some of these programmes are operated on a competitive basis and will result in direct contracts between the EU and bodies in Northern Ireland. 100% of the UK's EU funding allocated to be spent in Northern Ireland is in turn allocated to the Northern Ireland Executive. No funding is retained by the Exchequer.

### Executives: Pay

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) which sections of companies legislation he plans to amend to bring into force his proposals on executive pay; [89920]

(2) whether he considers that primary legislation will be required to bring into force his proposals on executive pay. [89921]

**Mr Davey:** The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), will be making an announcement to Parliament in due course.

### Foreign Companies

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* manufacturing and *(b)* service businesses have relocated abroad in each year for which figures are available. [89194]

**Mr Prisk:** There are no suitable data available with which to answer this question. The Office for National Statistics stores and compiles data on the number of births, deaths and the stock of businesses in the UK but has no comparable data on companies' activities abroad.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Elizabeth Truss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of home students in England initially enrolled *(a)* on a science degree switched to either an arts or social science degree and *(b)* on an arts degree switched to a science degree in each year since 2005. [89965]

**Mr Willetts:** This information is not held centrally.

### Higher Education: North East

**Sir Stuart Bell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications had been submitted by residents in *(a)* Middlesbrough constituency, *(b)* Middlesbrough borough, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* the North East in the 2011-12 admissions cycle by 19 December 2011; and how many such applications had been submitted on the same date in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [89889]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

UCAS have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

*All applicants to UCAS as at 19 December by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | Application cycle | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11*[1] | *2011-12*[2] |
| Middlesbrough constituency | 332 | 300 |
| The borough of Middlesbrough[3] | 332 | 300 |
| The Tees Valley | 3,205 | 2,772 |
| The North East | 11,284 | 10,103 |

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.
[3] The borough of Middlesbrough has been defined as Middlesbrough constituency.

*On time applicants to courses with a 15 October deadline*[1] *by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | Application cycle | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11*[2] | *2011-12*[3] |
| Middlesbrough constituency | 23 | 18 |
| The borough of Middlesbrough[4] | 23 | 18 |
| The Tees Valley[5] | 240 | 217 |
| The North East | 1,131 | 1,073 |

[1] These are courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and courses at Oxbridge.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.
[4] The borough of Middlesbrough has been defined as Middlesbrough constituency.
[5] Revised figures. These correct the figures provided in PQs 84160 and 84356 (254 for 2010-11 and 227 for 2011-120). The figures for the Tees Valley include the constituencies of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar, Stockton North, Stockton South, Darlington, and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland.

### Insolvency

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to initiate a consultation on the behaviour of suppliers involved in insolvency cases. [89202]

**Mr Davey:** The Government have previously announced that they would consider the case for updating Section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the wider issue of termination clauses. BIS officials are currently looking into the evidence and the possible options. This consideration includes the implications for all companies, not just those in insolvency, including any 'knock on' insolvency risk for suppliers. We will then decide how to proceed.

### Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

**Graham Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on employment in East Lancashire of the decision by the government of Japan to choose to procure the F35 Joint Strike Fighter; [88647]

(2) what discussions he has had with BAE Systems on the decision of the government of Japan to choose to procure the F35 Joint Strike Fighter; [88648]

(3) what discussions he has had with the government of Japan on the Eurofighter. [88650]

**Mr Prisk:** Regarding discussions with the Government of Japan, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth), on 13 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 408W. In 2011, there was cross-government support for the Typhoon campaign by ministerial colleagues from a number of Departments in discussions with the Japanese Government. Since my visit in June, the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, my noble Friend Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, discussed Typhoon with Japanese Government officials during his visit to Japan at the end of October.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), has had no discussions on this matter with BAE Systems although the company has raised it with the Minister of State for Trade and Investment.

No assessment has been made of the effect on employment in East Lancashire following the decision of the Government of Japan to choose to procure the F35 joint strike fighter.

### National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1213W, on National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, what safeguards prevent facilities provided through the Remote Access Project being used for political or campaigning purposes. [89742]

**Mr Davey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 341-2W. As previously advised, the grant offer letters for each project clearly set out the terms and conditions and activity for which the grant has been provided and this does not include carrying out political objectives or campaign activity. All projects are regularly monitored and evaluation of expenditure is undertaken to ensure union activity falls within the scope of the fund.

### Overseas Trade

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent assessment he has made of the challenges for British exporters arising from late payments and non-payment from customers in *(a)* Brazil, Russia, India and China and *(b)* other countries; [88747]

(2) how many businesses have reported to his Department that their financial position has been adversely affected by late payments and non-payment from customers in *(a)* Brazil, Russia, India and China and *(b)* other countries; [88748]

(3) what steps he plans to take to address the issue of late payments and non-payment to UK businesses from customers in *(a)* Brazil, Russia, India and China and *(b)* other countries. [88749]

**Mr Prisk:** The risk to UK business of late or even non-payment can sometimes be greater when doing business internationally. Analysis for the International Business Strategies, Barriers and Awareness Monitoring Survey 2011, carried out by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), shows no significant difference in getting paid and enforcing contracts in Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) as opposed to other countries. 24% of businesses stated that they faced difficulties in getting paid and enforcing contracts in BRIC countries, and in other countries 22% of businesses said they faced such difficulties.

HM Government do not keep a record of companies reporting late payments in each market; however our posts in the BRIC and other countries report to us that they do occasionally receive inquiries from UK business, especially small and medium enterprises (SME's), about late payment and non-payment. UKTI and the Export Credits Guarantee Department address these issues in a number of ways, including:

UKTI works with companies on the ground providing advice and support on the precautions to be factored in when planning an export strategy for entering new markets. It advises UK businesses that getting paid for overseas sales is a combination of them assessing risk, settling on acceptable payment terms and methods and considering insurance to protect a business against problems. To minimise the risks of non-payment, we also advise businesses that they should research the market conditions in their target country and the credit worthiness of potential customers before starting trading.

Where businesses report to us specific instances of these issues we advise that the business seeks independent legal advice, and can provide contacts for this advice. On a case-by-case basis, where an issue is of significant value to the UK economy, of particular complexity, or affects the credibility of doing business in that market more broadly, HM Government may also be able to take this up with the appropriate bodies in that market.

Complementary to the insurance cover available from the private market, the Government, through the Export Credits Guarantee Department, is also able to provide insurance against non-payment risks under its Export Insurance Policy, subject to the risk being acceptable and to compliance with its international obligations.

### Patents

**Fiona Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on proposals for the introduction of a single EU court to adjudicate on patent disputes; and what steps he is taking to ensure that patent litigation in the UK is not adversely affected by such proposals. [89475]

**Mr Davey:** The Government support the creation of a European patent system that will bring real benefits for businesses, consumers and the economy. The current proposals includes creating a single unitary patent and a unified patent court which would deal with the unitary patent and existing European patents.

We made significant progress towards making this a reality in 2011, and are working hard to ensure that the details of the proposals deliver the most effective arrangements for UK business and their representatives who will use the courts.

### Regional Development Agencies: Assets

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report,* columns 245-6W, on regional development agencies: assets, by what means his Department calculated the total valuation of RDA assets cited in his letter to hon. Members dated 18 November 2011; [89772]

(2) what estimate he has made of receipts expected from the sale of former RDA assets in each Government office region; [89773]

(3) by what method his Department estimated the level of receipts expected from the sale of former RDA assets. [89774]

**Mr Prisk:** The figure in my letter of 18 November 2011 indicated the value of RDA land and property assets transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on 19 September 2011 using end-March 2011 valuations. Some RDA assets were sold between 1 April 2010 and 18 September 2011. A small number of land and property assets are transferring to bodies other than the HCA. Details of receipts from the sale of RDA assets in 2010/11 in their respective regions are contained in the Annual Report and Accounts which have been laid before the House. The Department has not issued an estimate of the level of receipts expected from the sale of former RDA assets.

### Regional Development Agencies: Redundancy

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 1201W, on departmental redundancy, what estimate he has made of the cost of redundancies at the regional development agencies; and if he will make a statement. [89569]

**Mr Prisk:** Redundancy costs at the regional development agencies from April 2010 to June 2012 are currently estimated at £56.4 million. The final cost will depend on the number of staff resigning, transferring elsewhere or leaving for other reasons, prior to closure.

### Skilled Workers: West Midlands

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to maintain and increase the level of manufacturing and research skills in the West Midlands. [88896]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* In 2010, the Government published the national Skills Strategy which covers skills for the whole economy. It is a demand-led model to help deliver the skills and training that business and individuals need.

The model is not led by Government, but by employers and individuals themselves. The Government have provided them with the support, funding and information they need to make the right choices and shape the skills system to deliver what they need.

The Government have been working to increase manufacturing and research skills in the West Midlands through programmes such as the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) and the Grant for Business Investment (GBI) scheme which have provided funding to a number of firms undertaking major investments in the region, such as Jaguar Land Rover, Ceram and Zytek. These will involve extensive training programmes. The Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative, announced in December 2011, will support investment in improved skills and training support as well as in research and development and capital equipment.

The new Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) which was announced this month will provide a range of specialist assistance to manufacturing businesses across England, including linking SMEs with the apprenticeship programme delivering a minimum of 1,250 engineering and manufacturing apprenticeships annually. As one of the UK's main manufacturing regions, the West Midlands is expected to be a major beneficiary of the new MAS.

### Student Loans

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of people who have been found to be ineligible for tuition fee loans having been previously informed by Student Finance England that they were eligible in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [88804]

**Mr Willetts:** Student Finance England does not hold data in the format required to enable the Department to make a reliable estimate. A significant number of students routinely have their entitlement reassessed, and Student Finance England do not readily hold data which would identify individuals who have been found to be ineligible for tuition fee loans having been previously informed that they were eligible.

Student Finance England may reassess an individual's entitlement to a tuition fee loan for a number of reasons. These include, for example, changes in university course, repeating study, or change in mode of study. Such changes can be identified through annual reassessments at the start of each academic year and notified changes of circumstances. Routine internal audit checks can also result in reassessments where errors are identified in students' declarations or in Student Finance England's processing of applications.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many higher education students in each parliamentary constituency were receiving a student loan in 2011. [88824]

**Mr Willetts:** Final figures for 2011/12 will not be available until November 2012. Final figures for 2010/11 are shown in the following table.

*Number[1] of England domicile HE students paid a maintenance loan in academic year 2010/11, by constituency, 31 August 2011*

| *Constituency[2]* | *Country of constituency* | *Count of customers* |
|---|---|---|
| Aldershot | England | 1,645 |
| Aldridge-Brownhills | England | 1,250 |
| Altrincham and Sale West | England | 2,455 |
| Amber Valley | England | 1,150 |
| Arundel and South Downs | England | 1,635 |

*Number[1] of England domicile HE students paid a maintenance loan in academic year 2010/11, by constituency, 31 August 2011*

| *Constituency[2]* | *Country of constituency* | *Count of customers* |
|---|---|---|
| Ashfield | England | 950 |
| Ashford | England | 1,640 |
| Ashton under Lyne | England | 1,435 |
| Aylesbury | England | 1,900 |
| Banbury | England | 1,765 |
| Barking | England | 1,795 |
| Barnsley Central | England | 880 |
| Barnsley East and Mexborough | England | 900 |
| Barnsley West and Penistone | England | 1,210 |
| Barrow and Furness | England | 1,145 |
| Basildon | England | 1,140 |
| Basingstoke | England | 1,640 |
| Bassetlaw | England | 1,095 |
| Bath | England | 1,840 |
| Batley and Spen | England | 1,105 |
| Battersea | England | 1,305 |
| Beaconsfield | England | 1,930 |
| Beckenham | England | 2,100 |
| Bedford | England | 1,690 |
| Berwick-upon-Tweed | England | 1,090 |
| Bethnal Green and Bow | England | 1,925 |
| Beverley and Holderness | England | 1,920 |
| Bexhill and Battle | England | 1,375 |
| Bexleyheath and Crayford | England | 1,415 |
| Billericay | England | 1,365 |
| Birkenhead | England | 1,180 |
| Birmingham, Edgbaston | England | 1,510 |
| Birmingham, Erdington | England | 1,225 |
| Birmingham, Hall Green | England | 1,435 |
| Birmingham, Hodge Hill | England | 1,005 |
| Birmingham, Ladywood | England | 2,175 |
| Birmingham, Northfield | England | 980 |
| Birmingham, Perry Barr | England | 1,925 |
| Birmingham, Selly Oak | England | 1,600 |
| Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath | England | 2,030 |
| Birmingham, Yardley | England | 925 |
| Bishop Auckland | England | 1,075 |
| Blaby | England | 1,730 |
| Blackburn | England | 2,295 |
| Blackpool North and Fleetwood | England | 1,530 |
| Blackpool South | England | 1,595 |
| Blaydon | England | 1,205 |
| Blyth Valley | England | 935 |
| Bognor Regis and Littlehampton | England | 955 |
| Bolsover | England | 850 |
| Bolton North East | England | 1,570 |
| Bolton South East | England | 1,475 |
| Bolton West | England | 1,710 |
| Bootle | England | 1,150 |
| Boston and Skegness | England | 1,055 |
| Bosworth | England | 1,405 |
| Bournemouth East | England | 1,365 |
| Bournemouth West | England | 1,105 |
| Bracknell | England | 1,965 |
| Bradford North | England | 1,435 |
| Bradford South | England | 1,395 |
| Bradford West | England | 1,715 |
| Braintree | England | 1,500 |
| Brent East | England | 1,900 |
| Brent North | England | 2,445 |
| Brent South | England | 2,140 |
| Brentford and Isleworth | England | 2,430 |
| Brentwood and Ongar | England | 1,625 |
| Bridgwater | England | 1,295 |
| Brigg and Goole | England | 1,250 |
| Brighton, Kemptown | England | 1,145 |
| Brighton, Pavilion | England | 1,870 |
| Bristol East | England | 1,165 |
| Bristol North West | England | 1,280 |
| Bristol South | England | 840 |
| Bristol West | England | 2,445 |
| Bromley and Chislehurst | England | 1,900 |
| Bromsgrove | England | 1,790 |
| Broxbourne | England | 1,385 |
| Broxtowe | England | 1,515 |
| Buckingham | England | 2,060 |
| Burnley | England | 1,530 |
| Burton | England | 1,610 |
| Bury North | England | 1,860 |
| Bury South | England | 1,770 |
| Bury St. Edmunds | England | 1,845 |
| Calder Valley | England | 1,890 |
| Camberwell and Peckham | England | 2,400 |
| Cambridge | England | 1,570 |
| Cannock Chase | England | 1,200 |
| Canterbury | England | 1,900 |
| Carlisle | England | 905 |
| Carshalton and Wallington | England | 1,865 |
| Castle Point | England | 1,015 |
| Central Suffolk and North Ipswich | England | 1,890 |
| Charnwood | England | 1,810 |
| Chatham and Aylesford | England | 1,365 |
| Cheadle | England | 2,165 |
| Cheltenham | England | 1,635 |
| Chesham and Amersham | England | 2,195 |
| Chesterfield | England | 1,305 |
| Chichester | England | 1,605 |
| Chingford and Woodford Green | England | 1,830 |
| Chipping Barnet | England | 2,405 |
| Chorley | England | 1,935 |
| Christchurch | England | 1,125 |
| Cities of London and Westminster | England | 1,150 |
| City of Chester | England | 1,695 |
| City of Durham | England | 1,405 |
| City of York | England | 1,620 |
| Cleethorpes | England | 1,405 |
| Colchester | England | 1,790 |
| Colne Valley | England | 2,015 |
| Congleton | England | 1,800 |
| Copeland | England | 775 |
| Corby | England | 1,660 |
| Cotswold | England | 1,610 |
| Coventry North East | England | 1,680 |
| Coventry North West | England | 1,690 |

*Number[1] of England domicile HE students paid a maintenance loan in academic year 2010/11, by constituency, 31 August 2011*

| *Constituency[2]* | *Country of constituency* | *Count of customers* |
|---|---|---|
| Coventry South | England | 1,740 |
| Crawley | England | 1,380 |
| Crewe and Nantwich | England | 1,450 |
| Crosby | England | 1,830 |
| Croydon Central | England | 2,420 |
| Croydon North | England | 3,200 |
| Croydon South | England | 2,420 |
| Dagenham | England | 1,590 |
| Darlington | England | 1,365 |
| Dartford | England | 1,455 |
| Daventry | England | 2,265 |
| Denton and Reddish | England | 1,240 |
| Derby North | England | 1,510 |
| Derby South | England | 1,970 |
| Devizes | England | 1,785 |
| Dewsbury | England | 1,220 |
| Don Valley | England | 1,235 |
| Doncaster Central | England | 1,285 |
| Doncaster North | England | 885 |
| Dover | England | 1,305 |
| Dudley North | England | 1,130 |
| Dudley South | England | 950 |
| Dulwich and West Norwood | England | 2,255 |
| Ealing North | England | 2,800 |
| Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush | England | 2,155 |
| Ealing, Southall | England | 2,675 |
| Easington | England | 1,000 |
| East Devon | England | 1,270 |
| East Ham | England | 2,885 |
| East Hampshire | England | 1,905 |
| East Surrey | England | 1,710 |
| East Worthing and Shoreham | England | 1,225 |
| East Yorkshire | England | 1,680 |
| Eastbourne | England | 1,365 |
| Eastleigh | England | 1,455 |
| Eccles | England | 1,330 |
| Eddisbury | England | 1,810 |
| Edmonton | England | 2,410 |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | England | 1,385 |
| Elmet | England | 1,470 |
| Eltham | England | 1,515 |
| Enfield North | England | 2,215 |
| Enfield, Southgate | England | 2,105 |
| Epping Forest | England | 1,550 |
| Epsom and Ewell | England | 2,045 |
| Erewash | England | 1,395 |
| Erith and Thamesmead | England | 2,265 |
| Esher and Walton | England | 2,115 |
| Exeter | England | 1,455 |
| Falmouth and Camborne | England | 1,575 |
| Fareham | England | 1,520 |
| Faversham and Mid Kent | England | 1,445 |
| Feltham and Heston | England | 2,050 |
| Finchley and Golders Green | England | 2,365 |
| Folkestone and Hythe | England | 1,310 |
| Forest of Dean | England | 1,245 |
| Fylde | England | 1,990 |
| Gainsborough | England | 1,550 |
| Gateshead East and Washington West | England | 1,210 |
| Gedling | England | 1,330 |
| Gillingham | England | 1,525 |
| Gloucester | England | 1,740 |
| Gosport | England | 1,200 |
| Grantham and Stamford | England | 1,895 |
| Gravesham | England | 1,415 |
| Great Grimsby | England | 1,235 |
| Great Yarmouth | England | 965 |
| Greenwich and Woolwich | England | 1,880 |
| Guildford | England | 1,935 |
| Hackney North and Stoke Newington | England | 2,065 |
| Hackney South and Shoreditch | England | 2,565 |
| Halesowen and Rowley Regis | England | 1,195 |
| Halifax | England | 1,475 |
| Haltemprice and Howden | England | 1,695 |
| Halton | England | 1,405 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | England | 1,615 |
| Hampstead and Highgate | England | 1,490 |
| Harborough | England | 2,055 |
| Harlow | England | 1,125 |
| Harrogate and Knaresborough | England | 1,755 |
| Harrow East | England | 3,320 |
| Harrow West | England | 3,000 |
| Hartlepool | England | 1,375 |
| Harwich | England | 1,055 |
| Hastings and Rye | England | 1,230 |
| Havant | England | 1,045 |
| Hayes and Harlington | England | 1,710 |
| Hazel Grove | England | 1,370 |
| Hemel Hempstead | England | 1,675 |
| Hemsworth | England | 1,135 |
| Hendon | England | 2,845 |
| Henley | England | 1,750 |
| Hereford | England | 1,665 |
| Hertford and Stortford | England | 2,145 |
| Hertsmere | England | 1,985 |
| Hexham | England | 1,655 |
| Heywood and Middleton | England | 1,650 |
| High Peak | England | 1,825 |
| Hitchin and Harpenden | England | 2,155 |
| Holborn and St. Pancras | England | 1,560 |
| Hornchurch | England | 1,210 |
| Hornsey and Wood Green | England | 2,465 |
| Horsham | England | 1,990 |
| Houghton and Washington East | England | 1,260 |
| Hove | England | 1,525 |
| Huddersfield | England | 1,685 |
| Huntingdon | England | 1,845 |
| Hyndburn | England | 1,615 |
| Ilford North | England | 2,590 |
| Ilford South | England | 3,275 |
| Ipswich | England | 1,390 |
| Isle of Wight | England | 1,750 |

*Number[1] of England domicile HE students paid a maintenance loan in academic year 2010/11, by constituency, 31 August 2011*

| *Constituency[2]* | *Country of constituency* | *Count of customers* |
|---|---|---|
| Islington North | England | 1,745 |
| Islington South and Finsbury | England | 1,475 |
| Jarrow | England | 1,090 |
| Keighley | England | 1,530 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | England | 950 |
| Kettering | England | 1,850 |
| Kingston and Surbiton | England | 2,285 |
| Kingston upon Hull East | England | 940 |
| Kingston upon Hull North | England | 1,300 |
| Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle | England | 1,100 |
| Kingswood | England | 1,325 |
| Knowsley North and Sefton East | England | 1,580 |
| Knowsley South | England | 1,630 |
| Lancaster and Wyre | England | 2,050 |
| Leeds Central | England | 1,285 |
| Leeds East | England | 1,160 |
| Leeds North East | England | 2,200 |
| Leeds North West | England | 1,705 |
| Leeds West | England | 1,090 |
| Leicester East | England | 2,085 |
| Leicester South | England | 1,890 |
| Leicester West | England | 1,550 |
| Leigh | England | 1,305 |
| Leominster | England | 1,660 |
| Lewes | England | 1,375 |
| Lewisham East | England | 1,545 |
| Lewisham West | England | 2,025 |
| Lewisham, Deptford | England | 2,250 |
| Leyton and Wanstead | England | 2,000 |
| Lichfield | England | 1,485 |
| Lincoln | England | 1,365 |
| Liverpool, Garston | England | 1,675 |
| Liverpool, Riverside | England | 1,595 |
| Liverpool, Walton | England | 1,255 |
| Liverpool, Wavertree | England | 1,870 |
| Liverpool, West Derby | England | 1,515 |
| Loughborough | England | 1,590 |
| Louth and Horncastle | England | 1,415 |
| Ludlow | England | 1,305 |
| Luton North | England | 1,925 |
| Luton South | England | 1,730 |
| Macclesfield | England | 2,030 |
| Maidenhead | England | 1,825 |
| Maidstone and The Weald | England | 1,805 |
| Makerfield | England | 1,255 |
| Maldon and East Chelmsford | England | 1,400 |
| Manchester Central | England | 2,095 |
| Manchester, Blackley | England | 1,660 |
| Manchester, Gorton | England | 1,735 |
| Manchester, Withington | England | 1,795 |
| Mansfield | England | 1,130 |
| Medway | England | 1,250 |
| Meriden | England | 1,905 |
| Mid Bedfordshire | England | 1,850 |
| Mid Dorset and North Poole | England | 1,440 |
| Mid Norfolk | England | 1,460 |
| Mid Sussex | England | 1,805 |
| Mid Worcestershire | England | 1,615 |
| Middlesbrough | England | 1,395 |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland | England | 1,535 |
| Milton Keynes South West | England | 2,060 |
| Mitcham and Morden | England | 2,100 |
| Mole Valley | England | 1,895 |
| Morecambe and Lunesdale | England | 1,345 |
| Morley and Rothwell | England | 1,225 |
| New Forest East | England | 1,190 |
| New Forest West | England | 1,305 |
| Newark | England | 1,475 |
| Newbury | England | 1,765 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne Central | England | 1,570 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend | England | 1,290 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne North | England | 1,280 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme | England | 1,355 |
| Normanton | England | 1,205 |
| North Cornwall | England | 1,955 |
| North Devon | England | 1,470 |
| North Dorset | England | 1,650 |
| North Durham | England | 1,195 |
| North East Bedfordshire | England | 1,775 |
| North East Cambridgeshire | England | 1,230 |
| North East Derbyshire | England | 1,180 |
| North East Hampshire | England | 2,060 |
| North East Hertfordshire | England | 1,705 |
| North East Milton Keynes | England | 2,180 |
| North Essex | England | 1,450 |
| North Norfolk | England | 1,120 |
| North Shropshire | England | 1,635 |
| North Southwark and Bermondsey | England | 2,050 |
| North Swindon | England | 1,050 |
| North Thanet | England | 1,355 |
| North Tyneside | England | 1,155 |
| North Warwickshire | England | 1,265 |
| North West Cambridgeshire | England | 1,690 |
| North West Durham | England | 1,310 |
| North West Hampshire | England | 1,655 |
| North West Leicestershire | England | 1,335 |
| North West Norfolk | England | 1,120 |
| North Wiltshire | England | 2,210 |
| Northampton North | England | 1,395 |
| Northampton South | England | 2,165 |
| Northavon | England | 1,740 |
| Norwich North | England | 1,210 |
| Norwich South | England | 1,450 |
| Nottingham East | England | 1,335 |
| Nottingham North | England | 955 |
| Nottingham South | England | 1,255 |
| Nuneaton | England | 1,430 |
| Old Bexley and Sidcup | England | 1,475 |
| Oldham East and Saddleworth | England | 1,840 |
| Oldham West and Royton | England | 1,690 |

*Number[1] of England domicile HE students paid a maintenance loan in academic year 2010/11, by constituency, 31 August 2011*

| *Constituency[2]* | *Country of constituency* | *Count of customers* |
|---|---|---|
| Orpington | England | 1,780 |
| Oxford East | England | 1,615 |
| Oxford West and Abingdon | England | 2,020 |
| Pendle | England | 1,550 |
| Penrith and the Border | England | 1,485 |
| Peterborough | England | 1,440 |
| Plymouth, Devonport | England | 1,210 |
| Plymouth, Sutton | England | 1,880 |
| Pontefract and Castleford | England | 805 |
| Poole | England | 1,195 |
| Poplar and Canning Town | England | 2,470 |
| Portsmouth North | England | 1,050 |
| Portsmouth South | England | 1,420 |
| Preston | England | 1,570 |
| Pudsey | England | 1,555 |
| Putney | England | 1,375 |
| Rayleigh | England | 1,345 |
| Reading East | England | 1,655 |
| Reading West | England | 1,460 |
| Redcar | England | 1,305 |
| Redditch | England | 1,215 |
| Regent's Park and North Kensington | England | 2,170 |
| Reigate | England | 1,605 |
| Ribble Valley | England | 2,420 |
| Richmond (Yorks) | England | 1,650 |
| Richmond Park | England | 2,340 |
| Rochdale | England | 1,785 |
| Rochford and Southend East | England | 1,400 |
| Romford | England | 1,165 |
| Romsey | England | 1,880 |
| Rossendale and Darwen | England | 1,935 |
| Rother Valley | England | 1,130 |
| Rotherham | England | 1,040 |
| Rugby and Kenilworth | England | 2,140 |
| Ruislip-Northwood | England | 1,615 |
| Runnymede and Weybridge | England | 1,440 |
| Rushcliffe | England | 2,225 |
| Rutland and Melton | England | 1,735 |
| Ryedale | England | 1,450 |
| Saffron Walden | England | 1,930 |
| Salford | England | 1,165 |
| Salisbury | England | 1,845 |
| Scarborough and Whitby | England | 1,545 |
| Scunthorpe | England | 1,235 |
| Sedgefield | England | 1,325 |
| Selby | England | 1,790 |
| Sevenoaks | England | 1,505 |
| Sheffield Central | England | 1,490 |
| Sheffield, Attercliffe | England | 980 |
| Sheffield, Brightside | England | 835 |
| Sheffield, Hallam | England | 1,890 |
| Sheffield, Heeley | England | 1,160 |
| Sheffield, Hillsborough | England | 1,430 |
| Sherwood | England | 1,370 |
| Shipley | England | 1,945 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham | England | 1,775 |
| Sittingbourne and Sheppey | England | 1,205 |
| Skipton and Ripon | England | 1,860 |
| Sleaford and North Hykeham | England | 1,815 |
| Slough | England | 2,080 |
| Solihull | England | 2,295 |
| Somerton and Frome | England | 1,740 |
| South Cambridgeshire | England | 2,215 |
| South Derbyshire | England | 1,735 |
| South Dorset | England | 1,200 |
| South East Cambridgeshire | England | 1,950 |
| South East Cornwall | England | 1,900 |
| South Holland and The Deepings | England | 1,320 |
| South Norfolk | England | 1,755 |
| South Ribble | England | 1,895 |
| South Shields | England | 985 |
| South Staffordshire | England | 1,565 |
| South Suffolk | England | 1,560 |
| South Swindon | England | 1,440 |
| South Thanet | England | 1,460 |
| South West Bedfordshire | England | 1,555 |
| South West Devon | England | 1,945 |
| South West Hertfordshire | England | 2,265 |
| South West Norfolk | England | 1,315 |
| South West Surrey | England | 1,985 |
| Southampton, Itchen | England | 1,195 |
| Southampton, Test | England | 1,225 |
| Southend West | England | 1,365 |
| Southport | England | 1,895 |
| Spelthorne | England | 1,165 |
| St. Albans | England | 1,915 |
| St. Helens North | England | 1,375 |
| St. Helens South | England | 1,335 |
| St. Ives | England | 1,715 |
| Stafford | England | 1,600 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | England | 1,225 |
| Stalybridge and Hyde | England | 1,350 |
| Stevenage | England | 1,420 |
| Stockport | England | 1,540 |
| Stockton North | England | 1,325 |
| Stockton South | England | 1,915 |
| Stoke-on-Trent Central | England | 1,035 |
| Stoke-on-Trent North | England | 980 |
| Stoke-on-Trent South | England | 1,160 |
| Stone | England | 1,790 |
| Stourbridge | England | 1,305 |
| Stratford-on-Avon | England | 2,065 |
| Streatham | England | 2,385 |
| Stretford and Urmston | England | 1,910 |
| Stroud | England | 1,985 |
| Suffolk Coastal | England | 1,600 |
| Sunderland North | England | 1,005 |
| Sunderland South | England | 1,290 |
| Surrey Heath | England | 1,840 |
| Sutton and Cheam | England | 1,670 |
| Sutton Coldfield | England | 2,265 |
| Tamworth | England | 1,340 |
| Tatton | England | 1,770 |
| Taunton | England | 1,955 |
| Teignbridge | England | 1,800 |
| Telford | England | 1,025 |

*Number[1] of England domicile HE students paid a maintenance loan in academic year 2010/11, by constituency, 31 August 2011*

| *Constituency*[2] | *Country of constituency* | *Count of customers* |
|---|---|---|
| Tewkesbury | England | 1,730 |
| The Wrekin | England | 1,585 |
| Thurrock | England | 1,425 |
| Tiverton and Honiton | England | 1,830 |
| Tonbridge and Malling | England | 1,715 |
| Tooting | England | 1,650 |
| Torbay | England | 1,465 |
| Torridge and West Devon | England | 1,775 |
| Totnes | England | 1,640 |
| Tottenham | England | 2,755 |
| Truro and St. Austell | England | 1,945 |
| Tunbridge Wells | England | 1,840 |
| Twickenham | England | 2,330 |
| Tyne Bridge | England | 990 |
| Tynemouth | England | 1,630 |
| Upminster | England | 1,125 |
| Uxbridge | England | 1,400 |
| Vale of York | England | 1,825 |
| Vauxhall | England | 2,365 |
| Wakefield | England | 1,565 |
| Wallasey | England | 1,530 |
| Walsall North | England | 890 |
| Walsall South | England | 1,385 |
| Walthamstow | England | 1,970 |
| Wansbeck | England | 1,075 |
| Wansdyke | England | 1,625 |
| Wantage | England | 1,845 |
| Warley | England | 1,215 |
| Warrington North | England | 1,610 |
| Warrington South | England | 2,070 |
| Warwick and Leamington | England | 1,940 |
| Watford | England | 2,110 |
| Waveney | England | 1,195 |
| Wealden | England | 2,060 |
| Weaver Vale | England | 1,620 |
| Wellingborough | England | 1,590 |
| Wells | England | 1,810 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | England | 1,605 |
| Wentworth | England | 1,045 |
| West Bromwich East | England | 1,195 |
| West Bromwich West | England | 1,135 |
| West Chelmsford | England | 1,870 |
| West Derbyshire | England | 1,770 |
| West Dorset | England | 1,535 |
| West Ham | England | 2,365 |
| West Lancashire | England | 1,850 |
| West Suffolk | England | 1,145 |
| West Worcestershire | England | 1,685 |
| Westbury | England | 1,815 |
| Westmorland and Lonsdale | England | 1,525 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | England | 1,530 |
| Wigan | England | 1,370 |
| Wimbledon | England | 1,710 |
| Winchester | England | 2,315 |
| Windsor | England | 1,765 |
| Wirral South | England | 1,580 |
| Wirral West | England | 1,875 |
| Witney | England | 1,935 |
| Woking | England | 1,745 |
| Wokingham | England | 2,085 |
| Wolverhampton North East | England | 1,215 |
| Wolverhampton South East | England | 1,000 |
| Wolverhampton South West | England | 1,720 |
| Woodspring | England | 1,860 |
| Worcester | England | 1,535 |
| Workington | England | 1,130 |
| Worsley | England | 1,500 |
| Worthing West | England | 1,215 |
| Wycombe | England | 1,990 |
| Wyre Forest | England | 1,260 |
| Wythenshawe and Sale East | England | 1,560 |
| Yeovil | England | 1,315 |
| Other | — | 1,875 |
| Other | Channel Is/IoM | 55 |
| Other | Northern Ireland | 30 |
| Other | Scotland | 310 |
| Other | Wales | 415 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

[2] Constituency derived from home postcode at time of application in the academic year specified.

*Source:*

Data as per Table 4A(i) of November Student Support Statistical First Release for England

## Vetting: Trade Unions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to prevent the blacklisting of workers for trade union activities. [89574]

**Mr Davey:** The Employment Relations Act 1999 (Blacklists) Regulations 2010 make it unlawful, subject to certain exemptions, to compile, use, sell or supply "prohibited lists" (i.e. a blacklist). Data protection law provides additional protection against the misuse and mishandling of individuals' personal information.

Individuals may take action to enforce the law through several avenues, such as complaining to the court or the employment tribunal about blacklisting, or by reporting a breach of data protection law to the Information Commissioner.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Belarus: Political Prisoners

**Mr Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to provide support for imprisoned political activists in Belarus. [89501]

**Mr Lidington:** The UK is at the forefront of efforts within the EU and the wider international community to put pressure on the Belarusian authorities to release and rehabilitate the political prisoners. I have made clear in press statements and in this house my deep concerns about the health and welfare of the prisoners. These messages have been passed on directly to the Belarusian ambassador to the UK, Together with other EU states represented in Belarus, our ambassador in Minsk has asked for access to the prisoners on several occasions, to no avail. She has also made representations to the authorities about reports of the alleged ill-treatment of prisoners. In Belarus and in the UK we have been offering support to the relatives of the political prisoners. We will continue to pursue all means possible to press for the release of the prisoners, including by advocating tougher sanctions in the EU.

**Mr Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Belarus on the case of Siarhei Kavalenka. [89502]

**Mr Lidington:** We have not made specific representations on Mr Kavalenka's behalf to the authorities, but our embassy in Minsk is monitoring his situation and our ambassador in Minsk has discussed it with human rights activists. We have expressed our concerns on many occasions and in many fora about widespread human rights violations by the authorities. We will continue to put pressure on Belarus to respect the international standards which it is obliged to fulfil as a signatory to the key international human rights legal instruments.

### Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89392]

**Mr Lidington:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) speechwriting team consists of four civil servants, who serve the FCO ministerial team of six Ministers, including the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague).

There is one officer at band D, two officers at band C and one officer at band B.

### Departmental Official Visits

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department visited in an official capacity in 2011. [88857]

**Mr Lidington:** Details of ministerial travel are published on the Foreign and Commonwealth website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries neither received a ministerial visit or a meeting in London with Ministers or senior officials of his Department in 2011. [88858]

**Mr Lidington:** This information is not held centrally and would be obtainable only at disproportionate cost. Ministers and senior officials frequently meet counterparts from a wide range of countries across the world during the normal course of business.

### Egypt: Politics and Government

**Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he *(a)* has had or *(b)* plans to have meetings with the leadership of the Freedom and Justice party in Egypt. [89079]

**Alistair Burt:** Our ambassador in Cairo met the president of the Freedom and Justice party in Egypt on 4 December. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has not met the leaders of the Freedom and Justice party to date, but the British Government will engage with all political parties who respect the democratic process and have a clear commitment to human rights, the rule of law and non-violence.

### Falkland Islands: Sovereignty

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking at the UN in respect of Mercosur's closure of ports to vessels flying the Falkland Islands flag. [89897]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), said in his written ministerial statement of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 5-6WS, we consider that the decision to close ports to ships flying the Falklands flag has no legal basis. While we do not accept Mercosur's announcement, our priority has been to ensure that trade and commercial links between the Falklands and South America are not compromised by this political declaration. Brazil, Chile and Uruguay have told us that all Falklands-related commercial shipping will continue to enjoy access to their ports, in accordance with domestic and international law, if they are flying the Red Ensign or another national flag when docked. We will continue to protest, at the UN and elsewhere, against Argentina's attempts to deny the people of the Falkland Islands their right to trade openly and without hindrance, including in our response to the letter circulated by the Argentine delegation to the UN on 3 January.

### Foreign Policy

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish a list of the countries currently subject to country business plans. [89334]

**Mr Lidington:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office internally maintains country business plans for all states in which it represents the interests of the Government. These are used for internal planning in support of the Government's foreign policy priorities and the Department's business plan which is available on our public website

www.fco.gov.uk

## Iraq: Christianity

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of reports of the persecution of Christians in Iraq and the security of acts of Christian worship, including over the Christmas period; what representations he has made to the Iraqi Government about the need to protect Christians in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [89894]

**Alistair Burt:** The security situation for Christians has generally improved over the past 12 months, although the situation facing Iraq's ethnic and religious groups remains precarious. We are not aware of any major attacks against Christians that occurred over the Christmas period, although some Christian services are reported to have been cancelled for security reasons. The Government of Iraq have pledged their commitment to safeguarding places of worship and providing adequate protection to all their minority groups, including increasing security on the streets of Baghdad. We continue to monitor the situation closely and have raised our concerns at the highest levels with the Iraqi Government. In the past, both the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), have raised the persecution of Christians with the Iraqi Government, and I raised it most recently with the Iraqi Human Rights Minister on 12 January. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to fund project activity to promote religious tolerance. We have agreed to fund a further meeting of the High Council of Religious Leaders in Iraq, which seeks to bring together religious leaders from all faiths to combat sectarian violence.

## Israel: Borders

**Mrs Grant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli Government on its proposals to further extend parts of the security wall into Palestinian territory. [89498]

**Alistair Burt:** The British Government support Israel's right to defend itself. However, where the security barrier is built on Occupied Palestinian land outside of green line Israel, its route is illegal according to both international and Israeli law.

I visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) between 8 to 10 January 2012, my third visit in the past year. Having seen the situation for myself, I raised our concerns with Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, Danny Ayalon, including the security situation in the west bank, access issues for Palestinians in the OPTs and the security barrier.

Our officials in Tel Aviv regularly raise the issue of the barrier with the Israeli authorities.

## Israel: Prisoners

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the report submitted to the United Nations on 28 December 2011 on the use of solitary confinement on Palestinian children held in Israeli detention; and if he will make a statement. [89230]

**Alistair Burt:** We are aware of this report which raises serious concerns about the treatment of children in Israeli detention facilities. We await to see how the UN responds. The treatment of children in detention in Israel is an issue of concern to the UK. Together with EU partners, the UK monitors the situation with regard to all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and raises our concerns with the Israeli Government as appropriate.

## Kashmir: Politics and Government

**Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have meetings with his Indian and Pakistani counterparts on peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conflict. [89784]

**Alistair Burt:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), regularly speaks to his US, Indian and Pakistani counterparts about regional issues including relations between India and Pakistan. Officials in our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi regularly discuss India-Pakistan relations, including Kashmir, with their counterparts in both countries.

With the US and EU we recognise the importance of finding a lasting solution to the situation in Kashmir but it is not for third parties to prescribe one. It is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. A solution to the Kashmir dispute is something that both sides will need to develop.

## Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mrs Grant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli Government on the number of checkpoints in the Gaza Strip. [89499]

**Alistair Burt:** I visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) on 8 to 10 January 2012, my third visit in the past year. During my visit, I discussed movement and access issues, including those relating to checkpoints, with the Israeli authorities. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), visited the region on 17-18 December 2011, including the Gaza Strip, and discussed movement and access issues across the OPTs.

**Mrs Grant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the operation of checkpoints in the Gaza Strip; and if he will make a statement. [89500]

**Alistair Burt:** I visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) on 8 to 10 January 2012, my third visit in the past year, during which I discussed movement and access issues, including those relating to checkpoints, with the Israeli authorities. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell) visited the region on 17-18 December 2011, including the Gaza Strip, and discussed movement and access issues across the OPTs.

Our ambassador to Tel Aviv raises these concerns regularly with Israeli authorities. The issue of restrictions on Gaza was also formally raised by the UK at the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting of donors in New York on 18 September 2011 both in the plenary session and in bilateral meetings with the Israeli delegation in the margins of the main event. We continue to work closely with the Quartet and EU partners, and to call on Israel to ease restrictions on access.

### Nagorno-Karabakh: Peace Negotiations

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the progress of Nagorno-Karabakh peace talks; and what steps he plans to take to facilitate a possible resolution. [88827]

**Mr Lidington:** Peace and stability in the Caucasus is an important objective for the Government. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk group leads the negotiations on behalf of the international community in finding a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In December the co-chairs of the Minsk Group (US, France and Russia) and the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents issued a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to peace and identifying areas of potential co-operation, such as a mechanism to investigate ceasefire violations.

We support the work of the Minsk Group and regularly discuss progress with them and the Governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan. We will continue to monitor developments closely. We have funded project work to 'Strengthen the groundwork or a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through close engagement with civil society in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh worth £1.06 million this financial year through the Conflict Pool (a fluid programme administered jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development with the aim of preventing and managing conflicts).

### Stephen Crouch

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with Stephen Crouch since May 2010. [89158]

**Mr Lidington:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) on 8 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 157W.

### Sudan: Ethnic Groups

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on UK support for the request that the submission from the Dinka Ngok people of Abyei Area be considered at the 80th session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. [89367]

**Mr Bellingham:** It is for the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, as an independent expert body, to decide whether to consider this case.

We are deeply concerned about the welfare of the 100,000 people who have been displaced from their homes in Abyei. We urge the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to implement their existing agreements in full, in particular the 20 June Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, and the 8 September decision of the Abyei Area Joint Oversight Committee. We also urge both parties to withdraw their armed forces fully, allow unfettered humanitarian access, and establish an Abyei Area Administration. This will allow security to be provided by the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and displaced people to return home.

We call on the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to work together to find a peaceful long-term political solution to the status of Abyei. This should be resolved by negotiations between the parties in a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and not by the unilateral actions of either party.

### Syria: Human Rights

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will impose travel bans and other sanctions on the 74 Syrian military and intelligence officers named in the Human Rights Watch report on individual and command responsibility for crimes against humanity in Syria; and if he will make a statement. [89229]

**Alistair Burt:** Of the 74 Syrian military and intelligence officers named in the December Human Rights Watch report, 17 are already subject to EU travel bans and a freeze on assets, including President Assad. A full list of individuals listed by the EU can be found on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/syria.htm

Where the UK believes there is good evidence that an individual is responsible for violence and repression against the Syrian people, we will work with our EU partners to impose travel bans and asset freezes on them.

The UK has stated that those accused of the most serious of international crimes must be held to account for their actions. There must be no impunity and we will continue to work with our international partners to ensure this.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), made clear in his statement on 1 December, the ten rounds of EU sanctions, agreed to date, targeted on President Assad, his regime and those who support them with the aim of increasing pressure on the Syrian regime to stop the continuing violent repression of the Syrian people. I welcome these moves which send a clear message that the Syrian regime's actions have left it isolated.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Sovereignty: Scotland

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps his Department is taking to prepare for the possibility of independence for Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [89464]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are committed to keeping the United Kingdom together. Responsibility for constitutional issues relating to Scotland rests with the Secretary of State for Scotland.

### Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Londonderry of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 480W, on domestic visits, on which dates he visited Wales; and for what purposes. [88637]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I have visited Wales twice, in an official capacity, since coming into office. The first occasion was a Town Hall event in Cardiff on 30 September 2010, and the second visit was for a Regional Cabinet meeting on 12 July 2011.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Apprentices

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work and training placements will be created in Ashfield constituency under the proposed youth contract scheme. [89471]

**Chris Grayling:** The youth contract is a national package of measures and the take up of work and training opportunities will depend on the level of need and demand in different locations. The breakdown of opportunities at constituency level is not available. The Department will monitor take-up as the policy is implemented and an evaluation strategy for the youth contract is currently being developed.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88366]

**Chris Grayling:** The volumes of debtors serviced by the debt recovery companies since May 2010, and the debt recovery companies used, are detailed in the following table:

| *Company* | *Volume of debtors* |
|---|---|
| CCS Collect | 104,941 |
| Credit Solutions | 91,658 |
| Fairfax | 54,498 |
| iQOR | 96,966 |
| Total | 348,063 |

*Data Source:*
Departmental Systems of the Commercial Management Team. This does not form official statistics but is derived from Management Information.

The Department uses external debt collecting agencies to help in the recovery of the more difficult cases.

Where the Department has been unsuccessful in seeking recovery and has exhausted the options available to enforce recovery; or has been unable to locate a customer, the case may be passed to a private sector partners.

Our partners will then attempt to trace the debtor and seek recovery as our agents. This will include taking civil enforcement action if necessary.

Legal action would be taken only in cases where customers will not pay; it would never be considered in cases where the customer cannot pay.

The Department is currently exploring opportunities to increase its levels of engagement with its private sector partners to further enhance our ability to recover outstanding overpayments.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013. [88725]

**Chris Grayling:** The number of apprentices employed by each public body for which my Department is responsible for is as follows:

| | *April 2010 to March 2011* | *April 2011 to December 2011* | *January 2012 to March 2012* | *April 2012 to March 2013* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Health and Safety Executive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Remploy Ltd | 6 | [1]6 | [1]6 | [2]— |

[1] These are the same six individuals throughout.

[2] Not yet known. Unable to provide information as all recruitment is subject to a planning approval process.

None of my Department's other public bodies have employed or anticipate employing any apprentices during the periods shown.

Additionally, the number of apprentices employed by Department for Work and Pensions is as follows:

*(a)* April 2010 and March 2011

During 2010-11, DWP did not employ any apprentices; however following agreement with the Permanent Secretary they did commence an apprenticeship programme for 75 existing staff.

*(b)* April and December 2011

In October 2011, DWP employed 107 apprentices between the ages of 16 to 24 from the unemployment register to support Get Britain Working.

The number of apprentices the Department for Work and Pensions expects to sponsor between:

(i) January and March 2012

DWP does not expect to employ any more apprentices between January and March 2012. They will continue to support the apprentices that they employed in October 2011.

(ii) April 2012 and March 2013

DWP expects to employ a minimum of 100 apprentices aged between 16 and 24, between the dates stated.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88726]

**Chris Grayling:** The amount of funding available from the public purse which has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which my Department is responsible for is as follows:

£

| | *April 2010 to March 2011* | *April 2011 to March 2012* | *April 2012 to March 2013* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Health and Safety Executive | 0 | 0 | [1]166,000 |
| Remploy Ltd | 60,000 | 60,000 | [2]— |

[1] The apprentices will be funded from within HSE's existing payroll allocation and amounts to the total above.

[2] Not yet known. Unable to provide information as all recruitment is subject to a planning approval process.

None of my Department's other public bodies have employed or anticipate employing any apprentices during the period shown.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89140]

**Chris Grayling:** In response to the parliamentary question asking the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith):

*how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in:*

*(a)* April 2010 to March 2011—During the period concerned DWP paid for the assessment of 75 employees to undertake an apprenticeship programme, this was at a cost of £555,547;

*(b)* April 2011 to March 2012—The cost of the current group of recruited apprentices is £2,405,234; this includes recruitment and the strategic partner assessment costs;

*and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13:*

To take 100 apprentices through a full programme during the period April 2012 and March 2013 is expected to cost £4,186,578, including recruitment and strategic partner costs.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89207]

**Chris Grayling:** In response to the parliamentary question asking the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith):

*how many apprentices were employed by his Department between:*

*(a)* April 2010 and March 2011—DWP did not directly employ any apprentices; however following agreement with the Permanent Secretary they did commence an apprenticeship programme for 75 existing staff;

*(b)* April and December 2011—In October 2011, DWP employed 107 apprentices between the ages of 16 to 24 from the unemployment register to support Get Britain Working;

*and how many apprenticeships he plans that his Department will sponsor between:*

(i) January and March 2012—DWP does not expect to employ any more apprentices between January and March 2012. They will continue to support the apprentices that they employed in October 2011;

(ii) April and March 2013—DWP expects to employ a minimum of 100 apprentices aged between 16 and 24, between the dates stated.

## Food Procurement

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12-month period for which information is available. [87001]

**Chris Grayling:** Since 1998 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) occupies the majority of its accommodation under a private finance initiative (PFI) known as the PRIME Contract. Under the terms of this PFI the Department leases back fully serviced accommodation from its private sector partner Telereal Trillium. This covers a variety of facilities including, where appropriate, the provision of catering services which is delivered through Telereal Trillium's service partner Compass Group UK, trading as Eurest. Eurest undertakes all catering activity including food procurement for around 130 sites across the departmental estate. Where staff restaurant facilities are available, the Department would normally use these for the provision of any hospitality or working lunches required. For the remainder of the estate, these services would be procured locally on an ad-hoc basis.

The expenditure on officially provided food and refreshments for the period April 2010 to March 2011 was £572,236. However, the Department implemented a change in policy about the provision of refreshments and working lunches around June 2010, significantly reducing expenditure. Thus, for the most recent 12-month period available—from January to December 2011—the total spend is reduced to £134,577. As a further comparison, expenditure in the 12-month period from January to December 2009 was £883,649.

## Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88593]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions considers the effect on equality during the policy making process right through to implementation. It does this to ensure the needs of all groups of people are taken into account when we develop and implement a new policy or service or when we make a change to a current policy or service. It provides information about these considerations in various ways. In the specified period, this information was sometimes published in the form of an equality impact assessment, but not always as there is no legal requirement to publish such a document.

During this period the Department for Work and Pensions, including Jobcentre Plus, the Pensions Service and Disability Carers Service, published over 100 equality impact assessments that are available to the public online on the Department's website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments

### Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89390]

**Chris Grayling:** This Department employs one speechwriter at pay grade HEO(D).

### Employment Agencies

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87972]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP spend on recruitment agencies since September 2011 was as follows:

£

| | *September 2011* | *October 2011* | *November 2011* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hays Executive | 10,000 | 6,945 | 0 | 16,945 |
| TMP Worldwide | 0 | 0 | 13,995 | 13,995 |
| Capita Resourcing Ltd[1] | 0 | 0 | 16,277 | 16,277 |
| Capita Resourcing Ltd[2] | 1,019,883 | 622,611 | 1,104,237 | 2,746,731 |
| Total | 1,029,883 | 629,556 | 1,134,509 | 2,793,948 |

[1] Capita Resourcing Ltd managed recruitment for the DWP Financial Management Development Scheme and Procurement Management Development Scheme.

[2] Capita Resourcing Ltd also provides a managed service to DWP to supply interim personnel and specialist contactors on an agency basis. Agency workers are employed and paid by Capita. The figures represent the total fee paid to Capita by DWP including the fees paid by Capita to the agency workers.

DWP uses recruitment agencies to recruit to specialist posts where there is no internal expertise in specific sectors of employment.

Hays Executive managed a recruitment for members of the Social Security Advisory Committee.

TMP Worldwide managed a recruitment for Legal Professionals.

### Employment Schemes

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobseekers who started on the flexible new deal entered employment up to *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months and *(d)* 12 months after starting on the programme. [89982]

**Chris Grayling:** Flexible new deal providers were paid for jobs which lasted for 13 weeks (short job outcomes) or 26 out of 30 weeks (sustained job outcomes). Participants stayed on the programme for up to 12 months although three-month extensions were available.

The following figures are based on participants who started prior to September 2010 and hence could have spent a year on the programme prior to contract termination. They show the percentage of participants who achieved a 13-week job outcome which started within three to 12 months of their entry to flexible new deal.

| *Percentage of FND participants who achieved job outcome which started by:* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 3 months | 10 |
| 6 months | 16 |
| 9 months | 19 |
| 12 months | 21 |

*Source:*
Provider Referrals and Payment System Management Information (December 2011).

### Employment: Overseas Residence

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the proposed Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State; what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the directive on welfare and benefits payments; what estimate he has made of the total cost of implementing the directive's provisions relevant to his Department; and if he will make a statement. [89748]

**Chris Grayling:** The United Kingdom has not opted into this directive and is not therefore required to implement it.

### Housing Benefit

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the June 2010 Budget, whether the estimated saving arising from the introduction of the social sector size criteria from 2013-14 took account of the effect of new rents charged at affordable market rent levels. [89337]

**Steve Webb:** The policy on affordable rents was announced in the 2010 spending review.

Estimates of the savings likely to result from the introduction of the social sector size criteria have been based upon the information collected as part of the Family Resources Survey in 2008-09. Rent levels have been increased to reflect forecast increases in social sector rents, but take no account of the introduction of affordable rents.

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people moving *(a)* into and *(b)* out of the social rented sector as a result of the introduction of the social sector size criteria from 2013-14. [89338]

**Steve Webb:** One of the aims of the social sector size criteria is to help increase mobility within the social rented sector. Figures from the English Housing Survey for 2009-10 suggest that only around 5% of tenants living in the social rented sector moved within the sector during the year.

Housing benefit claimants affected by the size criteria are likely to have a number of choices. This could include moving into work or increasing working hours. It could also involve claimants moving to alternative accommodation in the social rented sector, or possibly downsizing into smaller accommodation in the private rented sector. We are unable to accurately estimate the numbers moving out of, or into, the social rented sector as different claimants are likely to have different options available to them, and will respond in a variety of ways to the introduction of the size criteria.

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the June 2010 Budget, what methodology his Department used to determine the £490 million saving to the public purse arising from the introduction of the social sector size criteria from 2013-14. [89339]

**Steve Webb:** The method used to calculate savings from changes to housing benefit for working age social tenants contained within the June 2010 Budget report was published by HM Treasury in the Budget 2010 policy costings document.

The document can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

### Maternity Pay: Public Expenditure

**Elizabeth Truss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse was of statutory maternity pay (SMP) paid during the first six weeks of maternity leave; and what proportion this was of total SMP for the most recent period for which figures are available. [88907]

**Maria Miller:** In 2009-10, we estimate that employers recovered a total of £2.02 billion from the national insurance fund with respect to statutory maternity pay.

This figure is based on provisional employer returns to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and is subject to change following of late recoveries or adjustments.

The employer returns do not detail how much of the total expenditure relates to the first six weeks of maternity leave. However, internal estimates place this at around £0.79 billion, accounting for almost two-fifths of total recorded SMP recoveries.

### Pension Credit

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of tenants over pension credit age who will be affected by the size criteria reduction in benefit entitlement in each year in the period 2013 to 2017. [89336]

**Steve Webb:** The information is not available.

The introduction of size criteria from 2013-14 for housing benefit claimants living in the social rented sector will only affect working-age claimants.

The age threshold for distinguishing working-age from pension-age for benefit purposes is generally based upon the qualifying age for pension credit. This age threshold is gradually increasing over time. A small number of claimants over this age threshold may choose to claim a working-age benefit, such as income-based jobseeker's allowance, instead of pension credit. These claimants would also be treated as working-age for housing benefit purposes.

For couples currently claiming housing benefit, both the claimant and their partner need to be under the qualifying age for pension credit to be treated as working-age. When universal credit is introduced, if either member in a couple is under the qualifying age for pension credit then the couple would be treated as working-age.

They would then be expected to access universal credit rather than pension credit.

It is intended that those already in receipt of pension credit at the point of change will be protected, and continue to receive pension credit as long as they continue to meet the other qualifying conditions.

### Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to recent judgements by the European Court of Justice what his policy is on the application of the past presence test to benefit claimants living abroad. [89092]

**Chris Grayling:** The past presence test is a requirement in UK legislation that a person must have been in the UK for 26 out of 52 weeks before they make a claim to certain benefits.

The Court of Justice of the EU issued a judgment in the case of a young person who lived in Spain and applied for incapacity benefit (Youth) (Case C-503/09).

The court said that it is not acceptable for us to refuse to pay a benefit to a person who had lived in Spain for a number of years and thus did not meet the past presence condition, if they could otherwise demonstrate that they had genuine and significant links to the UK. The court found that the past presence test was too narrow in focus to determine the issue. We accept that, in relation to claims from abroad, it is therefore necessary to consider the claimant's links to the UK in accordance with the criteria outlined by the court in this case.

We are carefully considering the wider implications of the judgment, and will be issuing guidance in due course.

### Universal Credit

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of children in each age group who will be in households in receipt of universal credit once it is fully introduced. [89324]

**Chris Grayling:** The following table provides an estimate of the number and proportion of children broken down by age group who will be in households entitled to universal credit once it is fully introduced.

| *Age of child* | *(a) Number of children in households entitled to universal credit (Million)* | *(b) Proportion of children in each age group in households entitled to universal credit (%)* |
|---|---|---|
| 0 to 4 | 2.2 | 55 |
| 5 to 10 | 2.1 | 55 |
| 11 to 15 | 1.8 | 50 |
| 16 to 18 | 0.6 | 45 |
| Total | 6.7 | 50 |

The number of children has been rounded to the nearest 0.1 million and the proportion has been rounded to the nearest 5%.

These estimates have been made using the Department's Policy Simulation Model, which is based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS), and is consistent with the updated Impact Assessment for Universal Credit which was published in October 2011, where case load information was provided on the basis of entitlement.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what indicative forecasts he has made of the *(a)* amounts and *(b)* budget headings for spending under the universal credit programme in each of the next three years. [89983]

**Chris Grayling:** The 2010 spending review settlement included funding of £2 billion for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15. This is intended to meet all the costs of introducing universal credit including any increases in benefit expenditure, additional benefit administration costs in the transition period, the cost of IT development and implementation, communications, staff training and programme management.

The Department is currently forecasting to spend £105 million of the budget allocated to the implementation of universal credit in the financial year 2011-12. Plans for future year expenditure remain under development, alongside programme plans.

### Work Capability Assessments

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to update the guidance issued to Atos on assessing claims by people living with HIV. [88905]

**Chris Grayling:** We are planning to review the guidance (evidence based protocol and learning set) on HIV/AIDS for Atos health care professionals this year.

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of proposed disability entitlement test on people living with HIV. [88906]

**Maria Miller:** The personal independence payment assessment is being designed to consider an individual's personal circumstances, their ability to participate in society and the support they need, rather than basing eligibility on any medical condition they may have. As such it is not possible to provide an assessment of how individuals with certain conditions, such as HIV, will be affected.

We are still developing the assessment criteria for personal independence payment and will be providing initial information on the second draft of the assessment criteria in advance of our debate on personal independence payment at Lords Report Stage of the Welfare Reform Bill.

It is our intention to begin a formal consultation on the assessment criteria in its entirety shortly which will provide individuals and disability organisations with a further opportunity to tell us their thoughts and further engage in the developmental process. Officials have previously met with the Terrence Higgins Trust and National Aids Trust and will seek to do so as part of the forthcoming consultation.

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent meetings he has had with HIV groups on planned changes to the work capability assessment. [89151]

**Chris Grayling:** Ministers and officials hold regular meetings about the work capability assessment (WCA) with a range of stakeholders including those representing people with HIV. The National Aids Trust were represented at the ministerial launch of the second Independent Review of the WCA on 24 November 2011.

The National Aids Trust are also part of the group of stakeholders Professor Harrington has asked to look at the way the WCA accounts for fluctuating conditions. Their report was submitted to the Department during late November and we are considering these proposals closely.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recommendations following a work capability assessment made by Atos *(a)* to place a claimant in (i) the support group and (ii) the work-related activity group and *(b)* finding a claimant fit for work were overturned by his Department when making an initial decision since the introduction of the assessment. [89981]

**Chris Grayling:** Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) rest solely with the Department's Decision Makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

The following table shows the recommendations made by Atos together with the final decision made by the DWP Decision Makers. For example, there were 597,100 claimants where the recommendation from Atos at initial assessment was 'fit for work', of these, 564,800 received a final fit for work decision, but 27,700 were assessed to be in the work-related activity group and 4,700 were assessed to be in the support group.

There were also around 24,000 clerical assessments where the Atos recommendation cannot be determined but the claimants subsequently received a decision from DWP.

The table presents data for all completed initial work capability assessments for ESA claims from October 2008 up to May 2011 (the latest data available).

| | | *DWP decision* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *FFW* | *WRAG* | *SG* | *Total* |
| *Atos Recommendation* | FFW | 564,800 | 27,700 | 4,700 | 597,100 |
| | WRAG | 600 | 212,600 | 4,200 | 217,500 |
| | SG | 100 | 600 | 90,200 | 90,900 |
| | Unknown | 10,000 | 12,000 | 2,000 | 24,000 |
| | Total | 575,400 | 253,000 | 101,000 | 929,500 |

*Note:*
All figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and as a result may not sum to totals.

## Work Programme

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date he plans to undertake the next stocktake of Work programme providers. [89325]

**Chris Grayling:** The next stock take is due to be undertaken on 30 January 2012.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to publish the most recent indicative volumes for claimants entering the Work programme over the next five years. [89326]

**Chris Grayling:** This and future iterations of the indicative Work programme volumes (which will be updated twice per year in line with the OBR forecasting/Budget cycles) will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data Work programme providers are required to collect to facilitate subsequent reporting in line with the requirements of the UK Statistics Authority. [89328]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP is developing official statistics on the information recorded by providers on the payment administrative system. The information collected is subject to regular validation checks to ensure providers are paid correctly for job outcomes and sustainment payments claimed, which in turn will help guarantee the accuracy of information which is released. Prior to the release of any figures DWP will perform extra validation checks to ensure that official statistics meet the appropriate standards for publication.

Providers have not been given specific instructions regarding the collation of data for the purpose of publishing official statistics, only that they should adhere to the code of practice which can be viewed via the following link:

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf

In addition, the DWP ensures that the National Statistician's guidance on the use of administrative or management information is followed. This can be viewed via the following link:

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-reports--reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-guidance/use-of-administrative-or-management-information.pdf

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the *(a)* sufficiency and *(b)* scope of the information on claimants passed to Work programme providers by Jobcentre Plus; and if he will make a statement. [89980]

**Chris Grayling:** An independent evaluation of the Work programme has been commissioned that will gain detailed feedback from participants on their experience of the Work programme; the support they received, how it was delivered and which types of support were most effective in moving people into sustainable work. This will include specific questions about the handover of information between Jobcentre Plus and their Work programme provider and whether continuity of service was maintained. The evaluation will start later this year with the full report due to be published in 2014.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Cancer: Redditch

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged between 13 and 24 were diagnosed with cancer in Redditch in the latest period for which figures are available. [90302]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people aged between 13 and 24 years have been diagnosed with cancer in Redditch in the most recent period for which data are available. [90302]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2009. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

In the Redditch parliamentary constituency, which is coterminous with the Redditch local authority district, there were six new diagnoses of cancer[1] registered for persons aged between 13 and 24 years in 2009.

The latest published figures on the incidence of cancer in England are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-27454

[1] Cancer is defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 excluding code C44, non-melanoma skin cancer.

## Death

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths were registered in each constituent part of the UK in each of the last five years. [89958]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths were registered in each constituent part of the UK in each of the last five years. (89958)

The following table provides the number of deaths registered for each constituent country of the United Kingdom between 2006 and 2010 (the latest year available).

Further information about the trends in mortality in the UK over the last 30 years, including age-standardised mortality rates for constituent countries, will be published on 20th January and will be available from the Office for National Statistics at:

http://ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/mortality-ageing/mortality-in-the-united-kingdom/mortality-in-the-united-kingdom-2010/mortality-in-the-uk-2010.html

More detailed information for each of the constituent countries is available separately. Annual figures on the number of deaths registered in England and Wales are available from the Office for National Statistics at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-27475

Figures for Scotland are available in the annual Vital Events Reference Tables produced by the National Records for Scotland at:

http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/general/ref-tables/index.html

Figures for Northern Ireland are available in an annual statistical bulletin produced by the Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency at:

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp23.htm

*Number of deaths registered in the United Kingdom by constituent country, 2006 to 2010*[1,2]

| | | | | | *Deaths (persons)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
| England | 470,326 | 470,721 | 475,762 | 459,242 | 461,017 |
| Scotland | 55,093 | 55,986 | 55,700 | 53,856 | 53,967 |
| Wales | 31,083 | 32,148 | 32,066 | 31,005 | 31,197 |
| Northern Ireland | 14,532 | 14,649 | 14,907 | 14,413 | 14,457 |

[1] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

*Source*:

Office for National Statistics, National Records for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

## Death: Greater London

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the perinatal mortality rate was for children in *(a)* Poplar and Limehouse constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [89883]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the perinatal mortality rate was in (a) Poplar and Limehouse constituency, (b) the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and (c) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [89883].

The latest available figures for perinatal mortality are for the year 2010. The table attached provides the perinatal mortality rates for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and for England and Wales in 2010.

Annual sub-national data on the number of deaths registered in England and Wales is available from the Office for National Statistics at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-27478

Figures for perinatal mortality in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2010 can be found in table 1a of the linked publication for 2010.

Perinatal mortality rates for the Poplar and Limehouse Parliamentary Constituency have not been given in line with the current ONS policy on protecting confidentiality with birth and death statistics available at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/best-practice/disclosure-control-policy-for-birth-and-death-statistics/index.html

*Table 1: Perinatal mortality rates*[1] *with 95% confidence limits*[2] *for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and England and Wales*[3]*, 2010*

| | | *95% confidence limits* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Area* | *Perinatal mortality rate* | *Lower limit* | *Upper limit* |
| London Borough of Tower Hamlets | 7.8 | 5.5 | 10.8 |
| England and Wales | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.6 |

[1] Perinatal deaths per 1,000 live births and stillbirths.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13; [89137]

(2) how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he plans that his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89206]

**Mr Maude:** Apprenticeships are a key feature of Cabinet Office skills and resourcing strategies. The Cabinet Office provides apprenticeships as a development opportunity for existing staff who are not already qualified to degree level; or as an appointment type for new recruits at entry level administrative grade or first line management.

Funding to support apprenticeships in 2010-11 was £59,165.53 to fund five apprenticeships. Funding to support apprenticeships from 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2012 was £140,022.16 to fund 10 apprentices. The Department plans to allocate the same level of funding in 2012-13 to support 10 new apprentices.

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88574]

**Mr Maude:** My Department has complied with all legislative requirements.

Individual units are responsible for conducting equality impact assessments on relevant policies or services. The Cabinet Office does not hold records on individual impact assessments centrally. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Security

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* training is in place for officials in his Department on the operation of protective marking schemes; and if he will make a statement; [89087]

(2) how many documents were protectively marked at each level of protection in each Government department in each year since 2005; [89843]

(3) what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* training he has put in place for officials to ensure that protective marking of documents is used for the purpose of national security and does not restrict the principles of open and transparent government; [90414]

(4) what monitoring of protectively marked documents takes place across Government departments to ensure that they are being appropriately classified. [90415]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office Security Policy Framework (SPF), available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/resource-library/security-policy-framework

provides Departments with comprehensive advice and guidance on all security matters, including the Government Protective Marking Scheme (GPMS). This guidance requires Departments to foster a professional and positive security culture by ensuring that staff are aware of departmental security policies and understand their responsibilities. Risk management underpins all HMG security controls, and there is a strong emphasis on ensuring that controls are only applied appropriately and proportionately.

Within the Cabinet Office itself staff are provided with guidance and trained on their responsibilities via induction courses and refresher briefings. Detailed advice is published on the Department's intranet site, and ad hoc reminders are issued when appropriate. Further guidance is provided on request by the Departmental Security Unit. Staff handling protectively marked information are given plain English guidance about security controls along with advice on how relevant legislation (such as the Official Secrets Act and the Freedom of Information Act) relates to their role. The appropriate application of the GPMS does not restrict the principles of open and transparent Government.

There is no central record of protectively marked documents or other assets and such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Nor is there any central monitoring, however a light touch compliance regime requires Departments to provide the Cabinet Office with a robust level of assurance that security and information risks are being appropriately managed.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance is issued to Departments on the employment of unpaid interns. [89332]

**Mr Maude:** In line with the Social Mobility Strategy, only paid internships are permissible.

The civil service ran three paid Whitehall Internship programmes during 2011, targeted at the following groups:

Undergraduate/Graduate level

College level

Secondary school

In addition, individual business units have provision to also run their own departmental paid internship schemes.

### Disadvantaged

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office by what means his Department measures levels of *(a)* social mobility and *(b)* social inequality; and if he will make a statement. [88780]

**Mr Hurd:** "Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A Strategy for Social Mobility", launched by the Deputy Prime Minister in April 2011 developed a set of leading indicators of likely future trends in social mobility. These indicators, and the policy needed to deliver against them, are owned by the relevant Departments and included in their business plans. The document is available at

http://www.dpm.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files_dpm/resources/opening-doors-breaking-barriers.pdf

The Social Justice Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, focuses on issues relating to poverty, equality and Social Justice, and facilitates cross-Government working and scrutiny of policies for their effects on some of the most disadvantaged groups in society.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Education, *(b)* Business, Innovation and Skills, *(c)* Communities and Local Government and *(d)* Health on social inequality between (i) May 2010 and May 2011 and (ii) June and December 2011. [88781]

**Mr Maude:** Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are published on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

As has been the practice of previous Administrations, information relating to internal Government meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed. Disclosure of such meetings would inhibit free and frank discussions between Ministers.

### Honours

**John Mann:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in each parliamentary constituency *(a)* were nominated for and *(b)* received an honour in (i) the 2011 New Year Honours list and (ii) the Queen's Official Birthday Honours list 2010. [89068]

**Mr Maude:** The Honours and Appointments Secretariat, which is responsible for the operation of the honours system, does not hold information about honours nominees or honours recipients in the format requested. The Secretariat does not hold centrally geographical information about every honours nominee because not all nominations are made directly to the Secretariat. Full geographical information for all honours recipients is held centrally, but not broken down by parliamentary constituency.

### Public Sector: Manpower

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the change in the proportion of working age population employed by the public sector in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland between 2001 and 2011. [89449]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking, what estimate has been made of the change in the proportion of working age population employed by the public sector in (a) England, (b) Wales, (c) Scotland and (d) Northern Ireland between 2001 and 2011. 89449.

Estimates of regional employment for the UK public sector are published on a quarterly basis by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). These estimates are only available on a consistent basis back to 2008.

Mid-year population estimates for the UK are published annually by ONS. Mid-2010 estimates were published on 30 June 2011 and are the latest available. Data for 2011 are based on 2010-based national population projections published on 26 October 2011.

The requested data for the period 2008-2011, for which consistent data are available, are attached at Table 1.

*Table 1: Regional public sector employment rates as a percentage of the working age population (16 to 64 years)*[1, 2, 3]

| | Percentage of working age population | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011*[4] |
| England | 14.4 | 15.0 | 14.9 | 14.3 |
| Wales | 17.9 | 18.4 | 18.2 | 17.7 |
| Scotland[5] | 17.5 | 18.5 | 18.1 | 17.3 |
| Northern Ireland[6] | 19.5 | 20.0 | 19.6 | 19.0 |

[1] Annual figures relate to June quarter (Q2).

[2] Rates are based on ONS's official estimates of Public Sector Employment. These estimates exclude approximately 40,000 public sector employees that could not be assigned to a region.

[3] Public Sector Employment estimates are based on where people are employed, whereas mid-year population estimates are based on country of residence.

[4] Working age population estimates for 2011 are based on 2010-based national population projections.

[5] Public sector employment estimates for Scotland are provided by Scottish Government to ONS on a quarterly basis.

[6] Estimates for Northern Ireland will differ to those published by DETINI. The ONS figures include HM Forces Personnel.

### Children

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* Action on Addiction, *(b)* Adoption UK, *(c)* the Adoption and Fostering Information Line, *(d)* the Child Bereavement Charity, *(e)* Well Child and *(f)* each of East Anglia's childrens hospices in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [89767]

**Mr Hurd:** In the financial year 2010-11 and up to the end of December in 2011-12, the Cabinet Office has not directly funded Action on Addiction, Adoption UK, the Adoption and Fostering Information Line, the Child Bereavement Charity, or Well Child.

Cabinet Office systems cannot identify whether funding has been provided to East Anglia's Children's hospices without the names of individual organisations.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Arms Trade

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure a transparent reporting mechanism and effective monitoring and verification procedures are part of any agreement on the Arms Trade Treaty. [88051]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** I refer the hon. Member to the response given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 74W.

The Government's commitment to transparent export controls is demonstrated through the publication of the UK's annual report on strategic export controls. The UK continues to argue for effective transparency mechanisms within an arms trade treaty, both on the treaty's application and its implementation, and regularly raises the issue in its meetings with other states and during the UN negotiations.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department is making to developing policy on the inclusion of import, export, re-export, transit, transhipment, brokering activities and the gifting, loan or lease of arms within the terms of the arms trade treaty. [88058]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** I refer the hon. Member to the response given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) on 10 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 75W.

The UK supports an arms trade treaty (ATT) with a broad scope that covers a range of activities and transfers. The cross-Whitehall team on ATT has held a number of technical meetings on different aspects of the treaty, including how different types of transfer and activity could be dealt with by an ATT, and these meetings will continue as we approach the UN conference in July 2012.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides *(a)* training and *(b)* detailed briefings on the arms trade treaty to staff working in overseas posts; and what steps he is taking to ensure that the treaty is raised in all relevant bi-lateral meetings. [88615]

**Mr Duncan:** I refer the right hon. Member to the response given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 75W.

The UK maintains a leading global position on an arms trade treaty (ATT), and regularly provides updates and briefing on the treaty to overseas posts and senior officials. The ATT is regularly raised in bilateral and multilateral meetings with states, and this outreach will intensify as we approach the crucial negotiating conference in July 2012.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department has made to policy development on including small arms, light weapons and ammunition within the terms of the arms trade treaty. [88616]

**Mr Duncan:** I refer the right hon. Member to the response given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 75W.

The UK supports a comprehensive scope for an arms trade treaty (ATT), including small arms and light weapons and ammunition. The cross-Whitehall team on ATT has held a number of technical meetings on different aspects of the treaty, including on the treaty's scope, and these meetings will continue as we approach the UN conference in July 2012.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure negotiations for an arms trade treaty in 2012 include representatives from civil society and non-governmental organisations. [88620]

**Mr Duncan:** I refer the right hon. Member to the response given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 76W.

Civil society and non-governmental organisations have played a crucial role in the progress made on an arms trade treaty (ATT) so far, including through regular meetings with UK officials and by providing a representative on the UK ATT team. Alongside Ambassador Moritan of Argentina, the Chair of the UN process on ATT, the UK has worked to ensure that civil society retain a voice in the UN Preparatory Committee meetings, and we will continue to support this approach at the UN conference in 2012.

## Bhutan: Overseas Aid

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department gave to Bhutan in 2011. [88842]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral assistance programme with Bhutan. DFID focuses its bilateral aid in 27 countries where we believe our support will have the biggest impact and where the need is greatest.

DFID does however provide financial support to a wider range of countries, including Bhutan, through our increasing contributions to multilateral organisations such as the United Nations and the International Financial Institutions. The estimated UK share of multilateral aid to Bhutan was £1,020,000 in 2009, the latest year for which such figures are available. Statistics on UK aid are published in DFID's annual report and accounts which may be found on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

## Departmental Location

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries his Department had directly-employed and posted staff in 2011. [88841]

**Mr Duncan:** Details of the countries in which the Department for International Development (DFID) had employees on DFID postings, as at 31 December 2011, are shown in the following list:

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Bosnia
Brazil
Burma

- Burundi
- China
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guyana
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Jamaica
- Israel (inc. Palestine Occupied Territories)
- Kenya
- Kosovo
- Kyrgyzstan
- Libya
- Malawi
- Montserrat
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Rwanda
- Serbia
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- St Helena
- Sudan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe.

### Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89411]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development employs one speechwriter at A2 grade.

### Departmental Records

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on record keeping for official meetings. [89045]

**Mr Duncan:** In line with the Civil Service Code, our policy is to create accurate records of official meetings where substantive issues are discussed.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the terms of reference are for the dedicated private sector team in his Department. [89157]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Private Sector Department was established in January 2011 as part of the coalition Government's commitment to support vibrant, resilient and growing business sectors in the poorest countries.

The context, vision and anticipated results of the Private Sector Department are set out in its operational plan available here:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/op/priv-sect-dept-2011.pdf

Further information on the Department for International Development's work with and on the private sector can be found in the 2011 publication, "The engine of development", available here:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/Private-sector-approach-paper-May2011.pdf

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what new projects related to *(a)* property rights, *(b)* microfinance, *(c)* small and medium-sized enterprise finance and *(d)* investment climate reform have been developed following the commitment in section 3.1(ii) of his Department's most recent business plan. [89159]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Property rights feature in three of several programmes developed on investment climate. Two programmes are in implementation: (i) the Facility to Utilise UK Specialist Expertise from UK Government departments (iFUSE) and (ii) a programme to strengthen regulatory and planning capacity for infrastructure development in Mozambique. The design of a third programme in Nigeria was strengthened to improve impact. The development of three additional programmes in Ghana, Ethiopia and Tanzania is advanced while a new programme is at an early stage of development in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Several financial sector programmes have been developed, which incorporate microfinance and small and medium sized enterprise (SME) finance components. These include new financial sector development programmes in India and Zimbabwe and two centrally funded multi-country SME finance and microfinance initiatives. Other financial sector programmes in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, Pakistan, Uganda and Zambia are in the advanced stages of design.

### Developing Countries: Agriculture

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on support for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program. [88038]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Ministers are considering whether providing funds for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program would represent value for money and make a significant, additional contribution to our support for agriculture and food and nutrition security in developing countries.

### Developing Countries: Education

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has any plans to introduce voucher schemes to access education in any of his Department's programmes up to 2015. [88039]

**Mr Duncan:** DFID is interested in all programmes or schemes which increase the number of boys and girls gaining access to basic education and are cost-effective for the UK taxpayer. Where the barriers to education (particularly for girls) are financial we will help to find a way to overcome them including, for example, through voucher schemes or stipend programmes targeted at girls. These schemes put purchasing power in the hands of the poor. DFID is currently assessing the use of voucher schemes in India and Pakistan.

For example, DFID's support to the Punjab Education Foundation delivers quality education to one million children through its Foundation Assisted Schools as well as Voucher Programmes. The Voucher Programme, designed specially to support out of school children, is being expanded to all 36 districts of Punjab and will support 300,000 children in the next three years.

### Developing Countries: Elections

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's Business Plan, in which countries his Department is supporting electoral processes. [88041]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** DFID's Business Plan for 2011-15 commits to supporting at least 13 countries to hold freer and fairer elections. In addition to supporting elections, DFID programmes work to strengthen democratic institutions such as parliaments, and improve political participation by marginalised groups such as women.

Currently DFID has programmes to support electoral processes and democratic institutions in 13 countries:

Afghanistan;
Bangladesh;
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC);
Ghana;
Kenya;
Malawi;
Mozambique;
Nigeria;
Pakistan;
Sierra Leone;
Tanzania;
Uganda; and
Zambia.

During 2011 these programmes supported elections in DRC, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. New programmes are being planned in Yemen for the interim presidential elections, and in Nepal and Zimbabwe, subject to elections being announced.

### Food Aid

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the Charter to End Extreme Hunger. [89560]

**Mr Duncan:** The Government supports the Charter to End Extreme Hunger's aim to reduce the likelihood of crises such as that currently affecting the Horn of Africa taking place in the future. In at-risk areas such as the Horn, we are already supporting the strengthened warning systems, resilience to disasters and stability that the Charter calls for. In Ethiopia, for example, we are helping 7.8 million people to break their need for emergency aid by providing support before food insecurity reaches famine levels.

Analysis conducted by the Department for International Development concluded that of the Charter's 13 commitments, the Government are already carrying out seven and considering another two. The four remaining commitments we deem to be unworkable. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), wrote in November to the non-governmental organisations behind the Charter to express the Government's appreciation for their vital work and to note that he will take appropriate opportunities to express publicly his support for the Charter's aims.

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will endorse the Charter to End Extreme Hunger. [89663]

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to endorse the Save the Children Charter to End Extreme Hunger. [89794]

**Mr Duncan:** The Government support the Charter to End Extreme Hunger's aim to reduce the likelihood of crises such as that currently affecting the Horn of Africa taking place in the future. In at-risk areas such as the Horn, we are already supporting the strengthened warning systems, resilience to disasters and stability that the charter calls for. In Ethiopia, for example, we are helping 7.8 million people to break their need for emergency aid by providing support before food insecurity reaches famine levels.

Analysis conducted by the Department for International Development concluded that of the charter's 13 commitments, the Government are already carrying out seven and considering another two. The four remaining commitments we deem to be unworkable. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), wrote in November to the non-governmental organisations behind the charter to note therefore that while the Government will not formally endorse the charter, he will take appropriate opportunities to express publicly his support for the charter's aims.

### International Assistance: Pilot Schemes

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries the *(a)* Results-Based Aid and *(b)* cash-on-delivery contracts pilot schemes are running; and when he expects to announce his Department's assessment of the pilot schemes. [89156]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is developing innovative results based aid (RBA) pilots to test this new approach and develop an evidence base of what works. We have designed three pilots and are planning more. We are the first donor to implement the Cash on Delivery model—a form of RBA originally devised by the Centre for

Global Development—through an education pilot in Ethiopia. We have another education RBA pilot in Rwanda and a health RBA pilot in Northern Uganda. Rigorous independent evaluation is built in to all our pilots. Our pilots are just starting, and will have to run for two to three years to generate robust evidence. Results from these evaluations will be available from mid to late 2014.

### International Citizen Service

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* running costs of the International Citizen Service. [88042]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** In 2011, DFID launched a one year pilot phase of the International Citizen Service (ICS) offering 1,250 young people a chance to volunteer in developing countries. The cost of the pilot phase to DFID is £9 million.

The independent mid term evaluation of the ICS Pilot, completed by ITAD in October 2011, found that the costs of the ICS pilot were justified, though it noted that economies of scale could be achieved in a few areas as the programme increased in size.

DFID is using these findings to inform the ongoing tender process for the full programme to ensure that value for money is achieved. The full programme will offer a chance for 7,000 young people to volunteer in developing countries.

### Overseas Aid

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's Business Plan, what progress his Department has made in discussions with other Government departments on a joint approach to enhance British soft power. [88040]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence are drawing up a strategy outlining the UK Government's approach to soft power. We aim to publish this strategy later in the year.

### Reviews: Internet

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in establishing an internet-based evidence bank of quality-assessed evidence papers and systematic reviews as proposed in section 2.1(iv) of its most recent business plan. [89155]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** An intranet-based evidence base of quality-assessed evidence papers and systematic reviews has been established and is now available to the Department for International Development (DFID) staff. We are developing and refining the database. In addition all quality-assessed evidence papers and systematic reviews funded by DFID are publically available for free download from the Research for Development section of DFID's website.

### UN Central Emergency Response Fund

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on European co-ordination of donations to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund; [88838]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on EU contributions to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. [88839]

**Mr Duncan:** The UK is leading the way in contributing to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) which was assessed as good value for money in the UK's Multilateral Aid Review and has been shown to contribute to a more effective humanitarian system by helping to save more lives in the critical first hours after a disaster hits. Many other European countries are significant contributors to the CERF. I recently called upon all our international partners, including European partners, to ensure that the CERF remains fully funded. In 2012 we exceptionally allocated an additional £20 million to CERF for 2012 from our 2011-12 budget.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what comparative assessment he has made of the UK contribution to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund and that of *(a)* France, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* Korea, *(d)* Japan and *(e)* the US. [88840]

**Mr Duncan:** The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was assessed as good value for money in the UK's Multilateral Aid Review and has been shown to contribute to a more effective humanitarian system by helping to save more lives in the critical first hours after a disaster hits.

Recognising the CERF's vital role, the Department for International Development recently agreed a package of predictable multi-year funding set against the CERF's UN mandated funding target. The UK is leading the way in contributing to the CERF and we exceptionally allocated an additional £20 million to CERF for 2012 from our 2011-12 budget. We have called on all other partners to increase their contributions to this vital fund.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the UK economy of compliance with a possible future EU target of reducing carbon emissions by 30 per cent. [89224]

**Gregory Barker:** We are in discussion with the European Commission and our EU partners to develop a shared understanding of how an EU 30% greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target would be split between member states, as well as assessing options for delivering the UK's share, and therefore what the precise economic implications for each member state might be.

A full assessment of the potential effect on the UK economy can only be provided when the EU has concluded negotiations on whether and how to move to a 30% GHG reduction target.

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what economic assessments of the impact of proposed UK emissions reductions were prepared for the British delegation to the Copenhagen conference in 2009. [89481]

**Gregory Barker:** In July 2009, the previous Administration published a Low Carbon Transition Plan and an accompanying analytical annex that set out how the UK would reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet our first three carbon budgets and the cost to the UK of doing so, consistent with reducing emissions by at least 34% by 2020.

Were we to move to a higher 2020 target and set new carbon budgets consistent with that, then the Climate Change Act requires that we publish our proposals and policies for delivering those emissions reductions as soon as is practicable following the setting of new budgets in legislation. As EU negotiations on whether to move to a higher target are ongoing, and there is no agreed EU methodology yet for moving to 30%, we continue to assess the impact on the UK of moving to a higher target against a range of possible scenarios.

### Carbon Emissions: EU Action

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the changes to UK carbon emission targets that would be necessary to comply with an EU reduction target of 30 per cent. [89225]

**Gregory Barker:** Changes to UK greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets will be discussed and agreed among EU member states as part of the negotiation process for moving to a 30% EU GHG reduction target.

We cannot prejudge the outcome of this negotiation but we are willing to deliver our fair share of a higher EU 2020 GHG reduction target (currently this is at least 34% cut on 1990 levels) and that we would need to tighten our carbon budgets accordingly.

### Coal: Imports

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* coal and *(b)* gas was imported in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009 and (iv) 2010; and what estimate he has made of the effect of renewable electricity generation on levels of imports of (A) coal and (B) gas in the period from 2010 to 2020. [89517]

**Charles Hendry:** The amounts of coal and gas imported into the UK for each year between 2007 and 2010 are shown in the following table:

| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|---:|
| Coal (ktonnes) | 43,364 | 43,875 | 38,167 | 26,521 |
| Natural gas (GWh) | 338,026 | 407,054 | 455,789 | 589,497 |

The Department has made no estimates of the impact of renewable electricity generation on the levels of imports of coal and gas.

### Electricity

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to including measures to encourage energy efficiency in his Department's technical update to its White Paper on electricity market reform. [89504]

**Charles Hendry:** Energy efficiency will play a central role in tackling climate change and ensuring secure and affordable energy supplies. The Department demonstrates clear commitment to promoting energy efficiency through flagship policies such as the Green Deal and energy company obligation.

The aim of the electricity market reform (EMR) technical update was to set out, at a high level, the Government's choice of model for the capacity mechanism and institutional framework for delivering the EMR package. The technical update does also confirm that we are progressing the commitment in the EMR White Paper to assess whether there is sufficient support and incentives to make efficiency improvements in electricity usage and consider whether there is a need for appropriate additional measures. This assessment will complete by summer 2012.

### Electricity: Imports

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the electricity consumed in the UK was generated outside the UK in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; and what proportion he expects to be generated outside the UK in *(a)* 2012 and *(b)* 2013. [89626]

**Charles Hendry:** The following table shows the proportion of electricity consumed in the UK that is generated outside (ie imports).

| | *UK electricity imports (GWh)* | *UK electricity demand (GWh)* | *Imports share of UK electricity demand (percentage)* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|
| 2010 Q4 | 1,479 | 103,931 | 1.4 |
| 2011 Q1 | 1,787 | 103,972 | 1.7 |
| 2011 Q2 | 2,054 | 85,883 | 2.4 |
| 2011 Q3 | 2,656 | 84,821 | 3.1 |

*Source:*
Energy Trends, December 2011, table ET 5.2, available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/Statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

The following table shows the proportion of electricity consumed in the UK that is projected to be imported in 2012 and 2013 in DECC's latest published emissions projections published in October 2011, which can be seen at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/en_emis_projs/en_emis_projs.aspx

These projections are based on one possible scenario incorporating a number of assumptions and do not take account of Government plans for electricity market reform. Using different assumptions would lead to different results.

| | *Projected UK electricity imports (GWh)* | *Projected UK electricity demand (GWh)* | *Projected imports share of UK electricity demand (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 7,500 | 369,600 | 2.0 |
| 2013 | 7,800 | 367,200 | 2.1 |

### Energy

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish his Department's statistics for energy consumption at sub-national level during 2010. [89515]

**Charles Hendry:** Table 1 details release dates for sub-national energy consumption datasets relating to 2010. These data, along with previous releases, will be available on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/regional/regional.aspx

*Table 1: Timetable of release dates for sub-national energy consumption statistics*

| *Fuel* | *Geography* | *Release date* |
|---|---|---|
| Gas | Local Authority level | 22 December 2011 |
| | Middle and Lower Layer Super Output Area | 29 March 2012 |
| Electricity | Local Authority level[1] | 29 March 2012 |
| | Middle and Lower Layer Super Output Area | 29 March 2012 |
| Road Transport | Local Authority level | 28 June 2012 |
| Residual fuels | Local Authority level | 20 December 2012 |
| Total final consumption | Local Authority level | 20 December 2012 |

[1] Data for electricity consumption at local authority level for 2010 have been delayed from 22 December 2011 to 29 March 2012 while further investigations of some data quality issues are resolved.

### Energy Performance Certificates

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has considered classifying property in Energy Performance Certificate bands F and G as Category 1 hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. [86457]

**Andrew Stunell:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

When carrying out assessments under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System, local authorities may assess the dwellings for excess cold using their energy rating. The Rating System Operating Guidance recommends using a standard assessment procedure 2001 rating of 35 or below, which includes all properties with an Energy Performance rating of G and the majority of those with an F rating, as the threshold for consideration as a Category 1 hazard where the local authority has a duty to take action.

Environmental Health Officers will also make a judgment about the type of property, the inhabitants and what type of heating system has been installed before coming to their conclusions about whether a Category 1 hazard exists and what remedial action is necessary. If notice is served there is a right of appeal through the Residential Property Tribunal who will consider if the notice is reasonable.

We have no plans to review the operation of the Housing Health and Safety System or its associated enforcement regime.

### Energy Costs: Older People

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what steps the Government is taking to increase the affordability of energy for elderly people during the winter; [89302]

(2) what steps he plans to take to make energy bills more affordable for elderly people. [89613]

**Gregory Barker:** The Government are committed to helping people, especially low income vulnerable households, heat their homes more affordably.

The Warm Home Discount scheme will assist 2 million households each year, including over 600,000 pensioners in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit who will receive a Core Group discount of £120 off their electricity bill this winter, automatically without having to apply for it.

In addition, we continue to fund the Warm Front scheme, providing low income vulnerable households, living in energy inefficient properties, with energy efficient heating and insulation measures. We are also requiring suppliers to provide energy efficiency measures to low income vulnerable households through the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, Super Priority Group.

In addition, the Department for Work and Pensions provides pensioner households with winter fuel payments to help with additional heating costs during the winter. Cold weather payments are also made to low income and vulnerable households where there is an average temperature of 0°C or below for seven consecutive days. These payments have been permanently increased to £25 per week and in winter 2010/11 over 17 million cold weather payments were paid in Great Britain worth an estimated £430 million.

In the future, the Green Deal and new Energy Company Obligation (ECO) will be one of our key policies. ECO will provide "affordable warmth" to low income vulnerable households through heating and insulation measures.

### Forests: Developing Countries

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of recent research into advance market commitments in support of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. [89436]

**Gregory Barker:** Advance market commitments are one of the mechanisms that we have been exploring in developing a programme of spend for UK REDD+ finance under the UK's £2.9 billion International Climate Fund. We will be providing more detail on the UK's proposed REDD+ programme later in the spring.

### Green Deal Scheme

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether consequential work required as a result of a Green Deal assessment will be covered by Green Deal financing; and if he will make a statement. [89797]

**Gregory Barker:** No additional requirements for work to be completed are incurred simply by undertaking the assessment: the consumer is able to decide what they wish to install from the recommended list of measures. We are proposing to allow Green Deal providers to include preparatory and unexpected costs related to the installation of Green Deal measures, in Green Deal finance, up to the limit the Golden Rule principle allows. The Green Deal Code of Practice seeks to ensure customers are notified of any additional costs as soon as is reasonably practical.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps will be taken in the event that a Green Deal assessor is reported for providing partial advice; and if he will make a statement. [89798]

**Gregory Barker:** The code of practice the Government will put in place for Green Deal assessors will require the assessment and associated advice to be impartial. Appropriate sanctions will be applied for non-compliance such as suspension or withdrawal of licences to operate under the Green Deal.

### Natural Gas: Pipelines

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what reports he has received on progress with the Nabucco project; and what his policy is on the project. [88828]

**Charles Hendry:** Nabucco is one of four potential pipeline projects under consideration by the Shah Deniz consortium, who own the Shah Deniz II gas reserves in Azerbaijan, to bring the gas to the heart of Europe. The pipeline choice is for the Shah Deniz consortium and the UK Government have received no reports from the consortium on progress. The UK supports the development of a commercially viable route for delivery of gas from the Caspian to Europe through a 'Southern Corridor' gas pipeline.

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he proposes to publish the results of his Department's consultation on the implementation of changes to the Paris and Brussels Conventions on nuclear third party liability. [88861]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government intend to publish the response to this consultation in the near future.

### Postal Services: Carbon Emissions

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the effect of journeys to deliver goods ordered online to domestic premises on emissions of carbon dioxide. [88569]

**Gregory Barker:** No specific assessment has been made of the effect of journeys to deliver goods ordered on-line to domestic premises on emissions of carbon dioxide.

### Renewable Energy

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity was generated by renewable energy projects in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* the UK in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009, (iv) 2010 and (v) 2011. [89491]

**Charles Hendry:** The following table shows how much electricity was generated by renewable energy projects in England, Scotland, Wales and the UK in 2007 to 2010. Provisional data for 2011 will be available on 29 March 2012, and final data by 27 September 2012.

*Electricity generated from renewable energy projects*

*GWh*

| | *England* | *Scotland* | *Wales* | *UK* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 9,593 | 8,216 | 1,369 | 19,600 |
| 2008 | 10,316 | 8,988 | 1,627 | 21,565 |
| 2009 | 11,969 | 10,730 | 1,609 | 25,182 |
| 2010 | 13,777 | 9,515 | 1,621 | 25,734 |

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to monitor progress in implementing the Government's objective of securing 15 per cent. of all energy used from renewable sources by 2020, in each of the devolved regions of the UK. [89974]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department publishes the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) each July. This presents the results of monitoring renewable energy consumption across the UK. In 2010 (the latest data available in DUKES 2011), 3.3% of the UK's energy came from renewable sources.

While a breakdown is not available for progress in renewable energy in each of the devolved regions of the UK, the December 2011 issue of DECC's quarterly Energy Trends publication provides data for renewable electricity generation in each of the devolved regions. Table Al of December 2011's Energy Trends shows the share of renewable electricity generation across the devolved regions of the UK for 2007-10. For 2010, this was 19.1% in Scotland, 5.1% in Wales, 10.3% in Northern Ireland and 4.7% in England.

DUKES and Energy Trends are available from our website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/publications.aspx

### Renewables Obligation

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average amount added to a domestic energy bill by renewables obligation payments in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2010 and *(e)* 2011. [89589]

**Charles Hendry:** The renewables obligation (RO) places the obligation of supporting investment in large-scale renewable electricity generation on energy suppliers. It is expected that energy suppliers will pass the cost of this obligation onto their various energy customers through their energy bills.

To help ensure that policies achieve their objectives cost-effectively and affordably the Government introduced a framework to control levy funded spending by DECC at Budget 2011. This framework, covering the renewables obligation, feed-in tariff scheme and the Warm Home Discount, forms part of the Government's public spending framework which the Treasury has responsibility for. The Government have been reviewing the levels of support ('RO bands') under the renewables obligation, with a focus on delivering renewable energy to help meet the 2020 renewables target in a cost-effective manner in order to minimise costs to consumers.

An estimated average amount added directly to a domestic energy bill by RO payments in each year between 2007 and 2011 is presented in the following table. These estimates are based on annual costs of the RO from annual reports published by Ofgem multiplied by the share of total UK electricity demand in each year accounted for by households[1] divided by the number of UK households in each year[2]. The actual cost of the RO on each household's energy bill in a given year may differ depending on how energy suppliers pass on the costs of the policy to their customers.

*Estimated average amount added directly to domestic energy bill by RO payments, 2007-11 (real 2010-11 prices)*

| | *Estimated average RO cost on domestic energy bill (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 13 |
| 2008 | 14 |
| 2009 | 16 |
| 2010 | 17 |
| 2011 | 19 |

*Note:*
Ofgem has not published the costs for 2011 so numbers are based on the estimated RO cost for 2011.

On 23 November 2011, alongside the Annual Energy Statement, DECC published an assessment of the cumulative impact of climate change and energy policies on energy prices and bills in 2011, 2020 and 2030, which is available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/aes/impacts/impacts.aspx

The headline message for the household sector was that the average household energy bill in 2020 was estimated to be around 7% lower than it would have been in the same year if energy and climate change policies were not introduced. This result is based on DECC's fossil fuel price scenario consistent with a wholesale gas price of 68p/th in 2020 (in real 2010 prices).

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[1] Digest of UK Energy Statistics, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/energy_stats.aspx

[2] Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) projections.

### Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of legal proceedings arising from the decision to reduce feed-in tariffs for solar energy. [88925]

**Gregory Barker:** I estimate that the Government have incurred costs of approximately £58,000 to date. In the event that we are successful on appeal we would expect to recover all, or a substantial proportion, of our costs.

### Wind Power

**Mr Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department issues to ensure that the location of wind farms is in conformity with local plans. [89131]

**Robert Neill:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

It is a legal requirement that planning applications must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. We published a consultation draft of the new National Planning Policy Framework in July 2011 which sets out our policies for renewable energy (including wind farms), the preparation of local plans and development management. We are committed to the publication of the final version of the Framework by 31 March 2012, but intend to do so well ahead of that time.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 17 January 2012*

## WALES

### Departmental Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was paid to officials in her Department in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89705]

**Mrs Gillan:** The following amounts have been paid to staff of the Wales Office in addition to their basic salaries over the last two financial years:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Bonus | 17,386.94 | 16,700 |
| Misc. allowances | 183,450.45 | 106,973.03 |
| Annual leave sacrifice | 1,482.87 | 871.84 |
| Overtime | 43,360.19 | 9,245.41 |

The Wales Office is not an employer in its own right and therefore has to fulfil the terms and conditions of its staff depending on their home departments, including entitlements to particular allowances.

Similarly the payment of performance related bonuses—all of which are non-consolidated—is not a decision for the Wales Office. Those staff who delivered outstanding performances were entitled to a bonus payment by virtue of the terms and conditions of their home Department.

The vast majority of expenditure falls under misc. allowances, which includes the costs of staff who relocate as part of their role and those temporarily working at a higher grade who are then eligible for additions to their basic salary. In roles that require regular working of additional hours, an allowance is paid in lieu of overtime.

The use of overtime is only utilised in exceptional circumstances and now requires approval by a member of the senior civil service.

The value of some allowances are linked to the basic salaries of staff and therefore vary in each individual case.

The monetary value of the 20 largest payments made each year is as follows:

*2009-10*

£8,000.00
£7,306.20
£2,700.00
£2,696.40
£2,666.27
£2,630.85
£2,575.59
£2,551.39
£2,544.01
£2,503.81
£2,480.85
£2,380.85
£2,338.63
£2,241.94
£2,051.81
£2,036.87
£1,995.79
£1,912.35
£1,889.03
£1,867.23

*2010-11*

£7,500.00
£3,000.01
£2,680.85
£1,641.80
£1,578.20
£1,559.99
£1,531.34
£1,530.51
£1,409.99
£1,359.99
£1,359.99
£1,351.36
£1,217.94
£1,200.00
£1,200.00
£1,200.00
£1,200.00
£1,200.00
£1,200.00
£1,200.00

### Public Expenditure

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps she is taking to reduce administrative costs in her Department in 2012; and by how much she expects such costs to reduce. [89521]

**Mrs Gillan:** In 2011 the Wales Office established a Change and Efficiency Committee to monitor more closely the efficiencies being achieved by the Department. A formal Efficiency Plan is being drawn up.

There are also a number of shared service initiatives being pursued with other Territorial offices to streamline back office functions across the three Offices.

The Department's published comprehensive spending review budget incorporates the efficiency targets required by Treasury and we fully expect to come within that budget. Indeed, the department has already achieved a number of significant efficiency savings. For example, banning the purchase of first class tickets from May 2010 has reduced the cost of the average trip by two thirds. In addition a new government contract for hotel bookings has saved the Department over £12,000.

### Fire Services: Pensions

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department is responsible for the pensions of firefighters in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [89441]

**Mr David Jones:** The responsibility for the pensions of firefighters in Wales falls to the Department for Communities and Local Government working alongside the Welsh Government.

The administration and payment of individual pensions and benefits is the responsibility of the fire and rescue authorities.

### Rescue Services

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent representations she has received on the adequacy of helicopter search and rescue services covering South Wales. [89442]

**Mr David Jones:** The Wales Office has received no recent representations about the adequacy of helicopter search and rescue services covering South Wales.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89383]

**Mr Swire:** My Department does not issue guidance on the employment of unpaid interns to its NDPBs. The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, which is responsible for developing and implementing its own human resources policies, offers some internships on an expenses only basis.

### Firearms

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many people have had a firearms certificate revoked *(a)* for reasons of national security and *(b)* because they were deemed unfit to hold a firearm in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [89577]

(2) how many people have had their right to carry a personal protection weapon revoked in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [89578]

(3) how many people have had an application for a personal protection weapon refused in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [89579]

**Mr Swire:** The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is the firearms licensing authority for Northern Ireland, responsible for the issuing of firearms certificates to those wishing to possess firearms, including those wishing to possess a firearm for personal protection purposes. As such these are matters for the Chief Constable of the PSNI.

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have lodged an appeal against a decision to revoke their right to carry a personal protection weapon in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many such appeals have been successful. [89580]

**Mr Swire:** The following table indicates the number of appeals made to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland by holders of firearms certificates permitting them to carry a personal protection weapon revoked by the Chief Constable.

| | *Number of appeals* | *Number of successful appeals* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 | 2 | 0 |
| 2009 | 1 | 0 |
| 2010 | 1 | 0 |
| 2011 | 3 | 0 |

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have lodged an appeal against a decision to refuse their application for a personal protection weapon in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many such appeals have been successful. [89581]

**Mr Swire:** The following table indicates the number of appeals made since 2007 to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland against the Chief Constable's refusal to grant a firearms certificate allowing possession of a personal protection weapon.

| | *Number of appeals* | *Number of successful appeals* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 8 | 2 |
| 2008 | 19 | 3 |
| 2009 | 101 | 57 |
| 2010 | 38 | 0 |
| 2011 | 46 | 0 |

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people who have convictions for scheduled offences have been granted a firearms certificate in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [89582]

**Mr Swire:** The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is the firearms licensing authority for Northern Ireland, responsible for the issuing of firearms certificates to those wishing to possess firearms. As such these are matters for the Chief Constable of the PSNI.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Aidan Burley

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the letter of 21 December from his private political secretary regarding the behaviour of the hon. Member for Cannock Chase (Aidan Barley), when he expects the investigation to report to him; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation. [90283]

**The Prime Minister:** This is a matter for the Conservative party.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing: Rural Areas

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is his policy to encourage landowners to make land available for affordable housing in rural areas. [89284]

**Andrew Stunell:** The coalition Government have established in the Localism Act and the draft National Planning Policy Framework that local authorities, engaging with their local communities, are best placed to address the need for all types of housing, including affordable housing, in their areas. In that spirit, some authorities are encouraging landowners to make land available for affordable housing by offering them the right to nominate tenants to some of the homes.

We anticipate that the Community Right to Build will provide communities with the opportunity to secure the development they want, and we expect that they will engage with local landowners to secure the land to support this development. In November 2011 I also set out further opportunities in line with the Home on the Farm scheme, for local authorities to work with farmers to ensure that disused or underused farm buildings are converted for affordable housing.

### Commission for Local Administration in England

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which 20 parliamentary constituencies the most complaints were made to the Local Government Ombudsman in 2011. [88920]

**Robert Neill:** This information is not available. The Local Government Ombudsman's data are about complaints relating to local authorities, the following table showing the 20 councils with the highest number of complaints in 2011.

| *Local authority* | *Number of complaints in 2011* |
|---|---|
| Birmingham City Council | 257 |
| Southwark London Borough | 198 |
| Lambeth London Borough | 186 |
| Leeds City Council | 176 |
| Cornwall Council | 148 |
| Kent County Council | 143 |
| Haringey London Borough | 135 |
| Camden London Borough | 133 |
| Croydon London Borough | 121 |
| Hackney London Borough | 119 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough | 115 |
| Sheffield City Council | 114 |
| Islington London Borough | 113 |
| Ealing London Borough | 113 |
| Bristol City Council | 108 |
| Essex County Council | 102 |
| Newham London Borough | 98 |
| Surrey County Council | 96 |
| Staffordshire County Council | 95 |
| Brighton and Hove City Council | 92 |

These figures, in part, will reflect the larger resident populations in the local authority area; for example, the population of Birmingham is four times the size of Brighton and Hove.

### Council Housing

**Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public funding has been allocated to *(a)* write off council housing debt and *(b)* provide gap funding for councils pursuing stock transfer in 2011-12; and how much is proposed for a new stock transfer programme in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2013-14. [89590]

**Andrew Stunell:** Overhanging debt payments are within annually managed expenditure. In 2011-12 voted provision was £658 million, which has been adjusted as the year unfolds. The Department has yet to make any payments to the Public Works Loans Board in respect of completed housing stock transfers this financial year. It expects to make payments of up to £370 million for transfers due to complete by 31 March 2012. Figures for 2012-13 and 2013-14 are not available.

The Gap Funding programme is managed by the Homes and Communities Agency who allocate funding directly to housing associations. The agency has allocated £175 million for 2011-12, £161 million in 2012-13 and £121 million in 2013-14 in gap funding.

**Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the difference was between total rents paid by council tenants and the amount paid to councils in allowances for maintenance and major repairs of tenants' homes in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 to date. [89592]

**Andrew Stunell:** The data are given in the following table.

£

| | *Allowances for management and maintenance*[1] | *Allowance for major repairs* | *Guideline rental income* | *Rental income less management, maintenance and major repairs* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 3,234,501,328 | 1,250,408,574 | 6,018,638,074 | 1,533,728,172 |
| 2010-11 | 3,271,802,304 | 1,251,166,862 | 6,086,688,786 | 1,563,719,620 |
| 2011-12 | 3,269,422,797 | 1,247,117,455 | 6,296,923,063 | 1,780,382,811 |

[1] Management and maintenance costs are not disaggregated.

Rental income also contributes to the revenue costs of arm's length management organisations, private finance initiative schemes and capital charges together with a number of other, relatively minor, items. Collectively, these additional elements, which are not included in the table above, amounted to additional expenditure of £1.421 billion, £1.041 billion and £1.109 billion in each year respectively.

The existing housing revenue account subsidy system ends on 31 March 2012, with the introduction of the new self-financing regime introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

### Council Tax Benefits

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will be required to apply benefit tapers defined by his Department in operating council tax benefit schemes under provisions of the Local Government Finance Bill. [90241]

**Robert Neill:** The Government intend that the general principles of supporting work incentives will be set out in guidance which will help local authorities to design support. The Government will also consider what technical details around work incentives will help local authorities to consider interactions with universal credit and whether work incentives have been adequately supported. The Department will explore this in its work on the delivery of local schemes with local government representative organisations.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89138]

**Robert Neill:** No funding has been allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government to sponsor apprenticeships from April 2010 and there are no current plans to sponsor any apprenticeships between January 2012 and March 2013.

The Department's staffing restructure is timetabled to October 2012. Until we have either redeployed staff that have been selected to leave the Department or they have exited by October 2012, there are no vacant roles against which we could deploy apprentices.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he plans that his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89208]

**Robert Neill:** The data collected by Government Skills shows that the Department for Communities and Local Government did not start any apprenticeships during the year April 2010 to March 2011 and has not started any in the current financial year. My Department has no current plans to sponsor any apprenticeships between January 2012 and March 2013.

The Department's staffing restructure is timetabled to October 2012. Until we have either redeployed staff that have been selected to leave the Department or they have exited by October 2012, there are no vacant roles against which we could deploy apprentices.

### Departmental Publications

**Dan Jarvis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83003]

**Robert Neill:** Since May 2010, the Department has published 1,059 leaflets, posters and reports. Of these, around 80% were produced at zero cost to the Department.

Through the operation of the Government marketing controls, the Department has reduced the total number and unit cost of its publications compared with previous years. My Department is taking further steps to reduce the amount of hard copy printing of reports.

The remaining publications incurred the following costs:

*(a)* Leaflets

Cost: £11,215.20

Designers and printers: Tempo and Tudorseed

*(b)* Posters (related to the Fire Kills campaign)

Total cost (design and print): £1,926

Designers and printers: Tempo

*(c)* Reports

Total cost (design and print): £223,605.66

Designers and printers: The Stationary Office (TSO), Celeritas, Graphics Matter, Gray Publishing, GWS, RIBA, Tempo and Tudorseed.

To place this in context, the equivalent spend in the 18 months prior to May 2010 has been roughly estimated by my Department to be in the region of £1.9 million.

### Government Procurement Card

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Yarmouth (Brandon Lewis), of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 782W, on the Government Procurement Card, if he will give the name of the Minister or permanent secretary in respect of whom each transaction listed in the answer was made. [81676]

**Robert Neill:** The following transactions were made under the heading of 'restaurants and bars' and 'leisure activities' using cards held by the Permanent Secretary's Private Office in 2007-08:

| *Transaction date* | *Cardholder name* | *Merchant* | *Town* | *Spend category* | *Transaction amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 June 2007 | Private Office | Deliverance Limited | London W12 | Restaurants and bars | 17.90 |
| 28 June 2007 | Private Office | Deliverance Limited | London W12 | Restaurants and bars | 10.45 |
| 28 June 2007 | Private Office | Deliverance Limited | London W12 | Restaurants and bars | 145.85 |

There were no transactions under the heading of 'restaurant and bars' and 'leisure activities' using cards held by the Permanent Secretary's Private Office in 2006-07.

Other records are not held in the names of individual Ministers. It would involve disproportionate cost to provide the information in this form.

### Local Government Finance: Housing

**Jack Dromey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding each local authority in England has forgone as a result of the top-slicing of the 2012-13 Formula Grant to part fund the most recent new homes bonus allocations. [89181]

**Robert Neill:** £176 million has been top-sliced from the 2012-13 Formula Grant to part fund the 2012-13 New Homes Bonus allocations. This was deducted from the total amount of grant set in the spending review before the allocation for individual local authorities was calculated. The Department has not attempted to calculate how the £176 million would have been distributed within formula grant if the top-slice had not occurred. We have allocated almost £1 billion of additional funding to support the New Homes Bonus over the spending review period, including £250 million set aside for 2012-13.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the Minister of State for Housing to respond to the letters of 24 October and 29 November 2011 from the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Sir Alan Beith) regarding a right to build scheme in his constituency. [89793]

**Grant Shapps:** The letters were answered on 10 January 2012.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government replies to the letter of 20 December 2011 from the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on whether a call-in decision is required for the planning application as a matter of urgency. [90286]

**Robert Neill:** A reply to the hon. Member for Hartlepool was dispatched on 11 January 2012.

### Social Rented Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that local authority housing departments repair properties following accidents and emergencies in a timely manner; [90030]

(2) what powers his Department has to ensure local authorities improve efficiency in making necessary repairs to homes of vulnerable tenants. [90031]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Social Housing Regulator's Home Standard requires registered providers to provide a cost-effective repairs and maintenance service to homes and communal areas that responds to the needs of, and offers choices to, tenants, and has the objective of completing repairs and improvements right first time. It also requires registered providers to ensure a prudent, planned approach to repairs and maintenance of homes and communal areas which should balance planned and responsive repairs, and value for money.

The regulator has a range of enforcement powers it can use if a registered provider is failing to meet the requirements of this standard. The social housing regulator is currently consulting on a new set of standards. This includes a revision to the tenant involvement standard to require landlords to give tenants opportunities to play a bigger role in the maintenance of their homes.

Certain small, urgent repairs which, if not made, are likely to affect the health, safety and security of local authority tenants and their households have to be carried out in legislatively prescribed timescales under the Secure Tenants of Local Housing Authorities (Right to Repair) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994/133).

### Sustainable Communities Act 2007

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether regulations to be laid before Parliament under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 will include a duty on local authorities to try to reach agreement with communities when deciding on proposals to be submitted under the Act; [88884]

(2) whether regulations to be laid before Parliament under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 will limit how long the Secretary of State has to deal with proposals submitted by communities and councils; [88885]

(3) when he plans to lay before Parliament regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [88886]

**Greg Clark:** The Government are considering the scope of regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 following the consultation exercise conducted last year. We expect to make the regulations shortly.

### Travellers: Caravan Sites

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce the Government's new policy on Gypsy and Traveller planning following the Planning for Travellers Sites consultation. [89749]

**Robert Neill:** We are considering the responses to the consultation on our draft planning policy for Traveller sites and will publish the new policy as soon as possible. Decision makers are entitled to have regard to the fact that it is proposed to withdraw the circulars and replace them with the Government's draft new policy.

### Water: Conservation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to create a statutory requirement that all commercial and domestic new-builds should be required to harvest roof water for non-potable usage. [90208]

**Andrew Stunell:** To reduce the use of wholesome water, the 2010 changes to the building regulations introduced for the first time requirements for a calculated whole building performance standard for water use in new homes, currently set at 125 litres/person/day.

As the regulations are a functional approach, they allow the appropriate use of non-wholesome water for flushing of WCs and other non-potable uses, such as irrigation, and the approved documents that provide statutory guidance in support of the building regulations give additional advice on the use of rainwater harvesting and water from baths, basins and showers (referred to as "greywater") for non-potable uses.

This approach reflects a policy in which water efficiency measures should always be considered before rainwater harvesting or greywater systems, which, if not properly designed and installed, carry a risk of cross-connection and can be more energy and carbon intensive than mains supplies. They can also be costly and require routine maintenance in order to maintain effectiveness.

In light of the above, the Government consider that it would be inappropriate to make regulations to specifically require rainwater harvesting to be provided in all new buildings.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Departmental Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Attorney-General how much was paid to officials in the Law Officers' Departments in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89702]

**The Solicitor-General:** Non-consolidated performance-related payments made by the Law Officers' Departments over the last two full financial years are detailed in the following tables. The intention of such payments is to reward high performing staff and thereby maintain effective operational efficiency.

Payments made by the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol), the Attorney-General's Office (AGO) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) over the last two full financial years are as follows:

| | *TSol* | *AGO* | *HM CPSI* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2010-11* | | | |
| Non-consolidated PRP[1] | 319,647 | 21,075 | 14,900 |
| Allowances[2] | 83,768 | 16,683 | 18,945 |
| Other[3] | 59,981 | 25,780 | 6,028 |
| Total | 463,396 | 63,538 | 39,873 |
| *2009-10* | | | |
| Non-consolidated PRP[1] | 558,731 | 44,959 | 27,600 |
| Allowances[2] | 87,763 | 44,771 | 19,372 |
| Other[3] | 229,214 | 41,526 | 31,132 |
| Total | 875,708 | 131,256 | 78,104 |

[1] Non-consolidated performance-related pay

[2] Allowances: contractual payments in respect of specific posts e.g. on the basis of their location or particular responsibilities.[3] Other: these include in-year special bonus payments, overtime payments and deputising allowances.

The total value of the 20 largest individual payments was as follows. These were payments of non-consolidated PRP to members of the senior civil service (SCS).

2010-11: £100,000 (20 payments of £5,000 each).

2009-10: £217,000 (individual payments ranged between £10,000 and £15,000)

The following table provides details of the total payments made by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) to staff through payroll in addition to their basic salary.

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| *Payment type* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Non-consolidated performance related pay | 304,033 | 334,379 |
| Instant bonuses | 2,712 | 3,858 |
| Accountancy allowance | 42,465 | 55,490 |
| Other work related allowance | 50,671 | 40,216 |
| London pay addition | 1,200 | 1,170 |
| Excess fares allowance | 16,810 | 20,561 |
| Total | 417,891 | 455,674 |

The 20 largest payments made in addition to basic salary in each of these years are:

*2009-10*

£12,500

£7,000

£6,000

£4,500

£3,500

and others at £2,000

*2010-11*

£12,000

£8,000

£7,500

£6,500

£5,000

and others at £2,000

The amount paid to Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) officials in non-consolidated performance related payments was £1,023,928 in 2009-10 and £1,321,003 in 2010-11. The majority of the higher payments made in 2010-11 were payments made to SCS under the Civil Scheme, which in that year was subject to a cap for each grade.

The largest 20 non-consolidated performance payments in each of the last two financial years were as follows, with those in the SCS scheme subject to caps of between £15,000 and £10,000, depending upon grade:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| 1 | 15,000 | 12,116 |
| 2 | 12,500 | 10,379 |
| 3 | 10,000 | 9,324 |
| 4 | 10,000 | 9,276 |
| 5 | 10,000 | 8,682 |

£

| | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | 10,000 | 8,645 |
| 7 | 10,000 | 8,553 |
| 8 | 10,000 | 8,268 |
| 9 | 8,317 | 8,055 |
| 10 | 6,089 | 7,741 |
| 11 | 6,045 | 7,674 |
| 12 | 5,795 | 7,565 |
| 13 | 5,743 | 7,213 |
| 14 | 5,698 | 7,200 |
| 15 | 5,654 | 7,192 |
| 16 | 5,654 | 7,178 |
| 17 | 5,521 | 7,144 |
| 18 | 5,456 | 7,086 |
| 19 | 5,129 | 7,063 |
| 20 | 4,989 | 6,991 |

The CPS also pays a number of specific allowances as follows:

Recruitment and retention allowance (RARA)—Inner London £3,000 p.a.

Recruitment and retention allowance (RARA)—Outer London £1,000 p.a.

Higher court attendance allowance (HCA)—£1,500 p.a.

Accountancy allowance (fully qualified)—£5,000 p.a.

Accountancy allowance—Stage II—£2,000 p.a.

Accountancy allowance—Stage I—£250 p.a.

Audit allowance—£3,000 p.a.

ICT specialist allowance—£3,000 p.a.

Private secretary allowance—£4,000 p.a.

Pathfinder allowance—£3,000 p.a.

Paralegal officer allowance (one-off payment)—£250

The total amount paid through these allowances was £5,851,579 in 2009-10, £5,506,948 in 2010-11.

The CPS also makes some other payments to staff in addition to basic salary. These cover items such as overtime, out of hours working for staff (who do not receive overtime), and allowances for work carried out at a higher grade. The total payments made for these items were £6,983,610 in 2009-10 and £6,625,181 in 2010-11. The largest 20 payments here have not been identified as it would incur disproportionate costs to do so.

## TRANSPORT

### BMI

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the potential effects of the sale of BMI to IAG on businesses in Scotland. [90239]

**Mrs Villiers:** I would refer the hon. Member to my written answer given to the hon. Member for Midlothian (Mr Hamilton) and the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 647W, in relation to the proposed sale of the airline BMI, and to my written answer given again to the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick), on 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1019W, in relation to aviation links between Scotland and London airports.

### Departmental Procurement

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* contracts for rolling stock procurement and *(b)* other major contracts operated by her Department are made in foreign currencies. [89121]

**Mrs Villiers:** All such contracts are made in pounds sterling.

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is the regular practice of her Department to accept bids priced in whole or part in foreign currencies. [89122]

**Mrs Villiers:** Bids are typically priced in pounds sterling.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Closures

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* she, *(b)* the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and *(c)* officials in her Department have had on the possible closure of the local offices and regional enforcement centres of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [89483]

**Mike Penning:** As has been the practice of previous Administrations information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not normally disclosed. Meetings between Ministers and Permanent Secretaries and external organisations are published on a quarterly basis. Information for 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 is available on the Department of Transport's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

More recent information will be published in due course.

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the possible closure of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's local offices and regional enforcement centres. [89484]

**Mike Penning:** Between 13 December 2011 and 10 January 2012, about 250 responses have been received to the public consultation from a range of stakeholders and customers. A summary of responses and the outcome of the consultation will be available as soon as possible after the consultation closes on 6 March 2012.

In the same time frame 24 parliamentary questions and 14 letters from hon. Members to the Department for Transport have also been dealt with.

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has undertaken an equality impact assessment in respect of the possible closure of the local offices and regional enforcement centres of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [89485]

**Mike Penning:** No formal equality impact assessment has been completed at this stage, although equality matters were considered in the development of the proposals. An equality impact assessment is being undertaken as part of the current consultation process.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Finance

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what revenue was generated by the local offices and regional enforcement centres of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the DVLA's annual revenue this constitutes. [89486]

**Mike Penning:** The following table shows the cumulative revenue requested for the last four financial years. The information for 2006-07 is not readily available and would incur disproportionate costs to gather.

| | *Local Office and Enforcement Centre revenue (£ million)* | *Agency revenue (£ million)* | *Local Office and Enforcement Centre as a percentage of the agency revenue* |
|---|---:|---:|---:|
| 2007-08 | 475 | 5,943 | 7.99 |
| 2008-09 | 440 | 6,190 | 7.11 |
| 2009-10 | 424 | 6,433 | 6.59 |
| 2010-11 | 420 | 6,467 | 6.49 |

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Manpower

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average length of service is of staff employed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency at each local office and regional enforcement centre. [89482][1]

**Mike Penning:** The following table provides the average length of service of staff employed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's local office and regional enforcement centres.

| | *Average length of service in years* |
|---|---:|
| *Local Office* | |
| Aberdeen | 13.8 |
| Bangor | 11.9 |
| Beverley | 9.6 |
| Birmingham | 8.2 |
| Borehamwood | 10.7 |
| Bournemouth | 11.0 |
| Brighton | 11.9 |
| Bristol | 9.3 |
| Cardiff | 9.6 |
| Carlisle | 7.8 |
| Chelmsford | 10.8 |
| Chester | 10.3 |
| Dundee | 10.5 |
| Edinburgh | 9.2 |
| Exeter | 8.0 |
| Glasgow | 9.7 |
| Inverness | 5.7 |
| Ipswich | 13.1 |
| Leeds | 9.7 |
| Lincoln | 11.2 |
| Maidstone | 13.7 |
| Manchester | 8.1 |
| Newcastle | 9.4 |
| Northampton | 7.2 |
| Norwich | 9.4 |
| Nottingham | 7.9 |
| Oxford | 16.1 |
| Peterborough | 8.3 |
| Portsmouth | 11.2 |
| Preston | 9.4 |
| Reading | 9.9 |
| Sheffield | 11.8 |
| Shrewsbury | 12.5 |
| Sidcup | 11.2 |
| Stockton | 10.5 |
| Swansea Office | 11.0 |
| Truro | 6.2 |
| Wimbledon | 9.7 |
| Worcester | 12.4 |
| | |
| *Central Regional Enforcement Centre* | |
| Bournemouth | 10.2 |
| Glasgow | 11.5 |
| Northampton | 9.6 |

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Redundancy Pay

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of her Department's liability for redundancy payments following the planned closure of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's local offices and regional enforcement centres. [89346]

**Mike Penning:** The Department's liability for redundancy payments is estimated to be £32 million for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's local offices and regional enforcement centres.

### Driving Under Influence: Rehabilitation

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with potential providers of drink-drive rehabilitation courses. [89488]

**Mike Penning:** Driving Standards Agency (DSA) officials have had regular meetings and communications with potential providers of Drink Drive Rehabilitation (DDR) courses. All existing course providers are potential providers under the proposed scheme.

Since 2009, the DSA has actively engaged with The Association of Drink Drive Providers of Training (ADDAPT)—the representative body for DDR course providers. DSA officials have attended ADDAPT management meetings, quarterly ADDAPT 'full members' meetings and taken an active part in ADDAPT Study days, including running workshops. ADDAPT has also been closely involved in the development of the DDR Scheme Course Syllabus, which the DSA published to coincide with the "New approval arrangements for drink-drive rehabilitation courses" consultation paper.

Since July 2009, 20 out of the 21 existing course providers have been visited by DSA officials. The DSA has also responded to a number of expressions of interest from organisations wishing to provide DDR courses. The agency corresponded with these organisations to keep them informed as to current developments and the consultation.

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1.*[Official Report, 23 February 2012, Vol. 540, c. 1MC.]*

### Oil

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress has been made on the inclusion of a default value for tar sands in the European Fuel Quality Directive; [89616]

(2) what her policy is on the European Commission's proposal for a greenhouse gas emissions value for oil produced from tar sands. [89306]

**Norman Baker:** The European Commission put forward proposals on 4 October 2011 for implementing the Fuel Quality Directive that cover a wide range of issues including a default value for the greenhouse gas intensity of oil sands/natural bitumen. The Government are considering how these align with our environmental objectives.

We are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and want the Fuel Quality Directive to be a key tool in achieving this aim. The Government are therefore seeking an effective solution to address the carbon emissions from all highly polluting crudes, not just those from oil sands.

Member state representatives of the Committee on Fuel Quality met on 25 October and 2 December 2011 to discuss these implementing measures. Further meetings are provisionally scheduled for February and March this year. Member states have not yet been asked to vote on the European Commission's proposals.

### Railway Stations: Greater London

**Mr Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the change in the level of revenue generated at stations on the London Liverpool Street to Enfield Town line since the introduction of ticketing barriers; and if she will make a statement. [88400]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport does not hold detailed information relating to changes in revenue generated at specific stations. Ticket barriers are an effective method of preventing ticketless travel, thereby protecting revenue.

### Railways: Conflict of Interests

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 88W, on railways: franchises, which consultants have declared potential conflicts of interest in advising her Department on rail *(a)* franchises and *(b)* procurement contracts in the last 18 months. [R] [88078]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* Interfleet notified the Department on three occasions of potential conflicts of interest as answered in:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/
cmhansrd/cm111101/text/111101w0005.htm#11110220000529

There have been no other conflicts of interest formally declared by consultants in the last 18 months.

### Railways: Finance

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding has been allocated to the *(a)* Thameslink rolling stock and *(b)* Intercity Express programme; and if she will make a statement. [89123]

**Mrs Villiers:** Thameslink rolling stock will be funded by train operating companies paying a lease charge to the train manufacturer and Maintained Intercity Express programme rolling stock will be funded via train operating companies paying set access payments to the train service provider.

The budgets for these payments have been confirmed as part of the 2010 comprehensive spending review.

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she proposes that her Department should take account of the underlying interest rate risk on the long-term LIBOR swap rate between the bid date and financial close of each batch for each bidder for the *(a)* Intercity Express Programme and *(b)* Thameslink Rolling Stock Programme. [89184]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department tracks underlying LIBOR rates, and their repercussions on the Intercity Express Programme and Thameslink Rolling Stock Project contract awards, on an ongoing basis. Fluctuation of inter-banking lending rates remains the Department's risk up to the point of financial close.

### Railways: Profits

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which rail routes made *(a)* a profit, *(b)* a running profit only and *(c)* a loss in the latest period for which figures are available. [89801]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The Department does not currently hold this information but is aware that the Office of Rail Regulation is seeking to publish income and expenditure information by Network Rail route for the year 2010-11.

### Railways: Reform

**Jonathan Ashworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* was the initial and *(b)* is the current expected delivery month or quarter for (i) legislative proposals being brought forward in response to the McNulty Review on reforming the railways, (ii) the reform of Network Rail, (iii) the announcement on changes to the powers of the Office of Rail Regulation, (iv) the High Level Output Specification, (v) the next letting of the West Coast Intercity franchise, (vi) the order for Intercity Express trains and (vii) the order for Thameslink trains. [89124]

**Mrs Villiers:** Planned and actual delivery dates for departmental commitments are published in the DFT Strategic Business Plan, available on the Department's website and updated monthly.

The Department expects to publish shortly a Command Paper on Rail, which will include proposals on the structure of Network Rail. The Department and Office of Rail Regulation are currently consulting jointly on the role of the regulator, and the consultation is due to close on 2 March 2012.

The High Level Output Specification is due to be published by July 2012, and delivery remains on track.

The new Intercity West Coast franchise is due to be awarded in the summer, and to commence in December 2012.

The Department is planning to reach financial close for both IEP and Thameslink in the spring of this year.

### Railways: Richmond Park

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider the merits of reviewing passenger overcrowding on commuter rail services serving stations in Richmond Park constituency. [89359]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department regularly monitors levels of overcrowding on peak services into London Waterloo through the provisions of the franchise agreement.

On 23 December 2011, the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), announced that South West Trains passengers will benefit from 60 extra carriages that are being funded by the Government. Their arrival will mean that services from Windsor, Weybridge (via Staines), Portsmouth, Southampton, Eastleigh, Reading, Hounslow and Alton into Waterloo can be lengthened and additional services will also run from Reading. Their deployment will mean that platform 20 at the former Waterloo International Terminal will come back into use from 2014.

The carriages—which will allow around 8,000 extra peak-time passengers into Waterloo every morning—will begin arriving from May 2013, with all new services in place by July 2014.

### Road Traffic Offences

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many local authorities in England and Wales have been consulted on implementation of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 relating to the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions; and what proportion this figure represents of all such local authorities; [84349]

(2) whether her Department plans to consult local authorities on their views on implementation of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 relating to the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions; and if she will make a statement; [84350]

(3) which public and private sector organisations have made representations to her Department to express *(a)* support for and *(b)* opposition to the implementation of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 relating to the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions; [84351]

(4) for what reasons Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 relating to the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions has not yet been implemented; [84352]

(5) what estimate she has made of the cost of implementing Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 relating to the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions. [84353]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* In December 2010 I wrote to 20 local authorities to gauge enthusiasm for implementation of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. The 20 authorities were those judged most likely to wish to adopt the powers in Part 6, and represent 13% of the total 152 English local authorities. 14 replies were received.

At that time, I was not persuaded that there was sufficient appetite from councils and motorists, or that enough evidence had been provided about the likely benefits and costs, to justify bringing these powers into force. I also indicated that I was prepared to keep the matter under review. Further representations have been received since then, and as a result I am reflecting on the case for implementation and will be reviewing available evidence from Transport for London and the London boroughs, who already carry out civil enforcement of these contraventions. The views of road users themselves will also be a key consideration.

Since the 14 responses mentioned above, the Department for Transport has received representations from Kent county council, Stoke city council, Test Valley council, North Tyneside council, Medway council and Bath and North East Somerset council, the Local Government Association, the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association and Startraq (UK) Ltd in favour of implementing the powers. The Department has not received any representations against the introduction of the powers.

The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not made an estimate of the cost of implementing Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

However, a full impact assessment would be carried out if it were decided to implement these powers.

### Roadworks: Greater London

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 729W, on roadworks, whether her Department has made an assessment of whether street works legislation is working effectively in London. [89854]

**Norman Baker:** No specific assessment has been made by the Department of the effectiveness of street works legislation across London.

### Shipping: Marriage Ceremonies

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to authorise the captains of British-flagged vessels to conduct weddings. [89949]

**Mike Penning:** My Department is exploring options to allow weddings and civil partnership ceremonies on board UK registered ships.

This is a legally complex area. Any proposed legislation would have to deal with marriage and civil partnerships as separate provisions and it would have to ensure proper regard is given to the differing systems in the devolved administrations.

Where a marriage takes place at sea, there could be difficulty in determining the country in which the ceremony took place and any legislation would need to be clear about whose jurisdiction the ship is in, in order to determine what legal requirements must be met to perform a valid marriage or civil partnership.

Finally, it should be noted that it would not be for the captain to conduct the ceremony but an official registrar or superintendant.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methods are used by his Department to measure the effects of its decisions on the subjective well-being of children. [90159]

**Maria Miller:** The Department for Work and Pensions is working with the Office for National Statistics and a range of stakeholders, including other Government Departments and representatives from the third sector, to develop well-being measures for children and young people as part of the overall Measuring National Well-being programme.

Measures appropriate to children and young people need to include both their own views about their well-being as well as more objective measures of the circumstances that children and young people find themselves in. Collecting subjective well-being information from children is important because research has shown that parents' reporting of children's subjective well-being is quite different from the way children report it themselves.

This work will provide more robust intelligence about children's well-being and the factors that contribute to it, provide a measure of children's well-being in the UK in comparison to other comparable countries, and drive policy prioritisation to improve outcomes for children and young people.

### Departmental Location

**Mr Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which posts in his Department have been transferred from Fylde coast to *(a)* Sheffield and *(b)* elsewhere in the UK since 2005. [89130]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department does not centrally record information on posts in a way that would allow any transfers to be tracked and monitored. Therefore it is not possible to provide the information requested.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr Hain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87615]

**Chris Grayling:** Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on departmental websites. Information for 1 July onwards will be published in due course.

### Private Investigators

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on private investigators in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [89071]

**Chris Grayling:** I can confirm that DWP does not use private investigators to investigate benefit fraud. The Fraud Investigation Service (FIS), part of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), investigates fraud in all benefits administered by the DWP.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89389]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions has not issued guidance to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for attendance and disability living allowances have been made in each of the last four years; and how many were *(a)* awarded on first application, *(b)* awarded after an internal review and *(c)* awarded after a First Tier Tribunal hearing. [89724]

**Maria Miller:** Information on the number of disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) new claim applications received in each of the last four calendar years can be found in the following table:

*New claim applications received*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DLA New claims received | 463,100 | 485,500 | 448,100 | 432,200 |
| AA New claims received | 388,200 | 384,000 | 337,600 | 318,900 |

Details of DLA and AA decisions and awards for new claims, reconsiderations and appeals can be found, in the following tables:

*Disability living allowance*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DLA New claims decisions | 471,000 | 477,600 | 463,500 | 425,800 |
| DLA New claims awards successful | 213,900 | 214,200 | 203,600 | 186,800 |
| DLA New claim success (percentage) | 45.4 | 44.8 | 43.9 | 43.9 |
| DLA Reconsideration decisions | 136,700 | 133,400 | 143,400 | 134,300 |

*Disability living allowance*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DLA Reconsideration awards successful | 67,300 | 65,800 | 63,300 | 57,700 |
| DLA Reconsideration success (percentage) | 49.2 | 49.3 | 44.1 | 43.0 |
| DLA Appeal decisions to tribunal | 55,400 | 51,400 | 48,500 | 65,600 |
| DLA Appeal successful | 24,400 | 21,300 | 19,100 | 25,700 |
| DLA Appeal success (percentage) | 44.0 | 41.4 | 39.4 | 39.2 |

*Attendance allowance*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AA New claim decisions | 390,800 | 380,900 | 340,300 | 310,900 |
| AA New claim awards successful | 324,600 | 315,500 | 279,300 | 249,300 |
| AA New claim success (percentage) | 83.1 | 82.8 | 82.1 | 80.2 |
| AA Reconsideration decisions | 18,200 | 16,500 | 17,700 | 17,900 |
| AA Reconsideration awards successful | 10,600 | 9,600 | 9,200 | 9,000 |
| AA Reconsideration success (percentage) | 58.2 | 58.2 | 52.0 | 50.3 |
| AA Appeal decisions to tribunal | 3,300 | 2,800 | 2,700 | 3,500 |
| AA Appeal successful | 1,000 | 800 | 600 | 900 |
| AA Appeal success (percentage) | 30.3 | 28.6 | 22.2 | 25.7 |

*Notes:*

1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. The data provided are for each calendar year January to December.
3. New claims figures also include claims made under the special rules.
4. The figures provided for the number of new claim applications received and the new claim decisions made were processed in the time period stated only and can not be correlated with each other. This is because of the time lag between claims being received and registered on to the DLA/AA Computer System and a decision being made. This would also be the case where customers have withdrawn their claim prior to a decision being made.
5. The DLA management information on appeal decisions does not enable us to identify the type of decision that the customer is disputing. The appeal figures shown will include appeals against a new claim decision and appeals where the customer is disputing a lower level of benefit or rejection of DLA following re-assessment.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions, RDA/AA60209 and RDA/AA60205 reports DLA/AA Management Information Statistics.

## Employment Schemes

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a full list of providers of mandatory work activity. [90215]

**Chris Grayling:** The full list of mandatory work activity providers, broken down by contract package area is as follows;

| *CPA* | *CPA Name* | *Preferred bidder* |
|---|---|---|
| CPA1 | South east | A4e |
| CPA2 | South west | Rehab Group |
| CPA3 | London | Seetec |
| CPA4 | East of England | Seetec |
| CPA5 | East Midlands | Ingeus |
| CPA6 | West Midlands | ESG |
| CPA7 | North west | JHP Group |
| CPA8 | Yorkshire and Humber | BEST |
| CPA9 | North east | Ingeus |
| CPA10 | Scotland | JHP Group |
| CPA11 | Wales | Rehab Group |

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what are the current maximum and minimum single payments to mandatory work activity providers. [90216]

**Chris Grayling:** The specific amounts paid to individual mandatory work activity providers are commercial in confidence.

## Employment: Refugees

**Eric Ollerenshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data his Department hold on employment outcomes for people with refugee status. [89429]

**Chris Grayling:** Claimants leaving benefits are not required to inform the Department of their destinations and hence the employment outcome information that is collected is incomplete.

Jobcentre Plus has the capability to record a claimant's refugee status, where this is voluntarily given by the claimant. The information is collected for internal use within Jobcentre Plus to help identify barriers to employment and support that the individual may need. It does not give a complete assessment of the number of refugees that claim benefits or are otherwise in receipt of DWP services. The information is not published.

## Future Jobs Fund

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which employers in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire have participated in the Future Jobs Fund programme. [90197]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department does not hold records of the individual organisations that provided temporary employment through the Future Jobs Fund (FJF). Bids for FJF funding were submitted on a regional or national basis. The lead accountable bodies who were successful in receiving FJF awards in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire are listed as follows:

*Peterborough*

Peterborough city council

Salvation Army—(as part of a national bid)

Football League Trust—(as part of a national bid)

National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure—(as part of a national bid)

Barnardo's—(as part of a national bid)

*Cambridgeshire*

Cambridge county council

Norfolk county council/Renaissance East of England

National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure—(as part of a national bid)

3SC—(as part of a national bid)

Groundwork and NHF—(as part of a national bid)

Urban Futures—(as part of a national bid)

Community Service Volunteers—(as part of a national bid).

## Housing Benefit

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to mitigate the effect of changes in limits on housing benefits to ensure tenants are not forced to pay the difference between the rent owed and the claimable amount. [89534]

**Steve Webb:** The Government introduced caps to local housing allowance rates on 1 April 2011, as part of wider reforms to control the cost of housing benefit which reached £21 billion in 2010-11 and, if left unreformed, would reach £26 billion in 2014-15.

We have put some measures in place to mitigate the impact of these changes on claimants. They include:

Those already receiving housing benefit before 1 April 2011 will not normally be affected by the changes until the anniversary date of their claim, with a further nine months transitional protection. As a result some may have until December 2012 before they are affected.

The sum allocated by Government for discretionary housing payments, which can be paid to those in receipt of housing benefit who face a shortfall in meeting their contractual rent, has increased by £10 million in 2011 and by £40 million a year for the three following years. So the total discretionary housing payment budget for 2012-13 is £60 million. This will help local authorities to give additional support where they consider it is needed.

In addition, over the spending review period, DWP are providing £50 million to support local authorities in the implementation of the housing benefit reforms which came into force on 1 April 2011. This will enable them to give targeted housing support to claimants who may be affected by these changes.

Since 1 April 2011, we have temporarily widened local authorities' discretion to make payments direct to private landlords where it helps a housing benefit claimant to either secure or retain a tenancy. This additional safeguard is intended to be used only where landlords reduce the rent to an affordable level for housing benefit claimants.

## Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims were submitted for beat knee and osteoarthritis by former coal miners in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011; and how many such claims resulted in industrial disease payments in (i) Bassetlaw constituency and (ii) nationally. [88818]

**Steve Webb:** The information is not available at parliamentary constituency level for new claims and claims put into payment. The national number of claims and payable assessments for the prescribed disease A14 (osteoarthritis of the knee in underground coal miners) is as follows:

*Osteoarthritis of the knee*

| | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Claims | 31,280 | 10,210 | 1,110 |
| Assessments leading to payments | 3,910 | 12,270 | 710 |

The total claims number is the only information available on the number of claims for the prescribed disease A6 (bursitis—commonly known as 'beat knee'). The A6 payable assessments figure can be provided for those who worked in the mining and quarrying industry.

*A6 Bursitis (beat knee)*

| | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Claims | 1,810 | 640 | 80 |
| All Assessments leading to payments | 40 | 50 | 10 |
| Mining and quarrying assessments leading to payments | 30 | 40 | 10 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Claims from people resident overseas are included,
3. Figures are provisional and are subject to revision.
4. Comparing claims and payable first assessments will give an estimated success rate only as decisions on claims submitted are not necessarily made in the same time period.
5. Prescribed disease A14 was introduced from 13 July 2009, and many claims were not decided until 2010.
6. Most recent data are from the quarter to March 2011.

Information available for analysis on industrial injuries disablement benefit covers a variety of measures including new claims, first assessments and case loads, and is published on the Department's website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=iidb

Quarterly case load information is allocated to geographic areas at the level of parliamentary constituency but no prescribed disease/accident split is available from this source of data. The annual case load data do have a prescribed disease/accident split, but the latest data available from this are for March 2008.

## Industrial Injuries: Construction

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of recent trends in the number of *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries in the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [90284]

**Chris Grayling:** The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publishes annual statistics on the health and safety performance of the construction industry.

There has been a steady and long-term reduction in both numbers and rates of work-related injuries in the construction industry. In 2006/07 there were 79 workers killed with a corresponding rate of 3.2 per 100,000 compared with provisional figures for 2010/11 showing 50 workers killed and a rate of 2.4. Reported major injuries to employees in construction for the same years show a drop from 3,742 to 2,298, with a corresponding change in rate from 231.6 to 173.2 per 100,000.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the number of *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries in the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [90285]

**Chris Grayling:** Regulation of the construction industry remains a high priority for the Health and Safety Executive and is delivered through an evidence-based programme of work. This targets areas of greatest risk and where risk is not appropriately managed. The programme includes provision of advice and information, inspection, enforcement, investigation of incidents and engagement with industry bodies to improve health and safety standards across the supply chain.

### New Deal Schemes

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reach a settlement with providers following the early termination of Flexible New Deal contracts. [90214]

**Chris Grayling:** We have reached a settlement with 12 of the 14 former Flexible New Deal providers. Negotiations with the remaining two are ongoing.

### PAYE

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date the Joint Ministerial Steering Group last met to discuss the PAYE Real-Time Information project; and if he will make a statement. [89649]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Treasury.

The last meeting of the Joint Ministerial Steering Group was on 12 October 2011.

### Social Security Benefits

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many applications for incapacity benefit have been made in each of the last four years; and how many were *(a)* awarded on first application, *(b)* awarded after an internal review and *(c)* awarded after a First Tier Tribunal hearing; [89721]

(2) how many applications for employment and support allowance have been made in each of the last four years; and how many were *(a)* awarded on first application, *(b)* awarded after an internal review and *(c)* awarded after a First Tier Tribunal hearing; [89722]

(3) how many applications for income support have been made in each of the last four years; and how many were *(a)* awarded on first application, *(b)* awarded after an internal review and *(c)* awarded after a First Tier Tribunal hearing; [89723]

(4) how many applications for jobseeker's allowance have been made in each of the last four years; and how many were *(a)* awarded on first application, *(b)* awarded after an internal review and *(c)* awarded after a First Tier Tribunal hearing. [89725]

**Chris Grayling:** The total number of applications received, and subsequently awarded, for incapacity benefit (IB), employment and support allowance (ESA), income support (IS) and jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for the last four years is detailed in Table 1 as follows:

*Table 1: DWP benefit applications and awards, 2008-09 to 2011-12 (to November 2011)*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12 (to November 2011)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *IB* | | | | |
| Applications received | [1]480,000 | 24,900 | 11,600 | 0 |
| Awards | [2]159,700 | 20,600 | [3]12,500 | 0 |
| *ESA* | | | | |
| Applications received | [4]241,800 | 692,700 | 715,100 | 485,300 |
| Awards | [4]187,300 | 603,800 | 603,700 | 410,800 |
| *IS* | | | | |
| Applications received | 836,500 | 475,300 | 439,100 | 266,900 |
| Awards | 615,000 | 367,800 | 347,400 | 213,700 |
| *JSA* | | | | |
| Applications received | 3,290,300 | 3,744,500 | 3,468,100 | 2,283,200 |
| Awards | 2,750,400 | 3,147,100 | 2,918,000 | 1,916,200 |

[1] IB applications received significantly reduced in 2008-09 due to the introduction of ESA in October 2008.

[2] IB awards appear low relative to applications received in 2008-09 because the data only capture claimants awarded IB based on their contributions record. The remaining claimants may well have made a successful application to IS on incapacity grounds due to having insufficient contributions to be entitled to IB.

[3] We awarded more IB claims than received in 2010-11 as we completed processing all claims outstanding from the year before, while IB was closed to new claims.

[4] ESA was only introduced in October 2008.

*Note:*

MISP is the Department's internal performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice. The data can be subject to refresh.

*Source:*

DWP's Management Information System Program (MISP),12 January 2012.

There are many reasons why there is a difference between the number of claims received and the number awarded in any given year; this is not limited to claimants not meeting the conditions of entitlement. Other reasons include, but are not limited to, claims not being fully processed within a single tax year or claimants withdrawing applications.

Information on awards made after an internal review is not available.

Table 2 as follows shows the total number of IB, ESA, JSA and IS appeals administered by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) in the past four years. However, HMCTS does not record the issue under appeal and therefore cannot isolate data relating specifically to appeals on the basis of a claim for benefit having been refused.

*Table 2: HMCTS appeal outcomes for selected DWP benefits, 2008-09 to 2011-12 (to October 2011)*

| | *2008-09* | | *2009-10* | | *2010-11* | | *2011-12 (to October 2011)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Appeal type* | *Cases cleared at hearing* | *Number decided in favour of appellant* | *Cases cleared at hearing* | *Number decided in favour of appellant* | *Cases cleared at hearing* | *Number decided in favour of appellant* | *Cases cleared at hearing* | *Number decided in favour of appellant* |
| IB | 62,900 | 31,700 | 47,200 | 24,100 | 31,200 | 15,600 | 15,100 | 7,700 |
| ESA | 27 | 1 | 50,800 | 19,000 | 127,100 | 47,600 | 96,900 | 36,600 |
| JSA | 9,200 | 2,300 | 17,500 | 3,100 | 27,500 | 3,600 | 20,100 | 3,000 |
| IS | 12,200 | 4,000 | 11,800 | 3,400 | 10,500 | 3,000 | 5,300 | 1,400 |

*Source:*
HMCTS Management Information System, 2011 and published data.

## Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency have been prosecuted for *(a)* benefit fraud and *(b)* related offences in each of the last three years. [89370]

**Chris Grayling:** Prosecution data specific to your Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency are not available.

## Social Security Benefits: Glasgow North

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of recipients of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* employment and support allowance and *(c)* incapacity benefit in Glasgow North constituency who have had claims refused have taken their case to tribunal in each month since January 2011. [89886]

**Maria Miller:** We are unable to provide information on recipients of disability living allowance (DLA) in Glasgow North constituency whose claims have been refused, and have taken their case to tribunal. This is because this level of detail is not mutually reported and to obtain this would be at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Data on outcomes of assessments for employment and support allowance (ESA) are not available for the Glasgow North parliamentary constituency. However data are available for the Glasgow City unitary authority area. Between January 2011 and May 2011 (the latest data available) there were approximately 4,200 people from the Glasgow City unitary authority area who underwent an initial work capability assessment (WCA) for ESA. Of these approximately 2,800, or 66%, were assessed as being fit for work and therefore not eligible for ESA.

The equivalent information for incapacity benefit (IB) is not available since IB was replaced by ESA in October 2008 and any new claims received after this date were directed to claim ESA instead.

Data on the assessment outcomes of the incapacity benefits reassessment programme are not available. Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the process including the final outcomes is not yet available. Individual level data are being collected and the Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process once they have been fully quality assured.

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), who administer social security appeals, do not hold any data specific to the Glasgow North constituency. While the majority of DLA, ESA and IB appeals made by people in this constituency are heard in the hearing venue in Glasgow North, this venue also hears appeals from other nearby locations.

The following table shows the number of appeals received in the Glasgow North tribunal venue for DLA, ESA, ESA (IB Reassessment) and IB from January 2011 to October 2011 (the latest date for which information is available). The tribunal does not record the issue under appeal and therefore cannot isolate data relating to appeals on the basis of a claim for benefit having been refused.

Note that the figures in the table cannot be used in combination with the figures on ESA provided above, since they relate to a different time period and do not cover claims from the same geographical area.

| *Appeal type* | *Cases received by HMCTS in Glasgow North venue (January to October 2011)* |
|---|---|
| DLA | 1,900 |
| ESA | 3,400 |
| ESA (IB reassessment) | 100 |
| IB | 400 |
| All appeals | 5,700 |

*Notes:*
1. The Department regularly publishes data on ESA and WCA. The latest publication can be found on the departmental website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca
2. Data on ESA assessments and outcomes are taken from administrative data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and assessment data provided by Atos Healthcare.
3. Appeals data are taken from HMCTS management information.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and percentages to the nearest percentage point.

### Universal Credit

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data on savings held by individuals he will use to apply the proposed capital limits for universal credit. [90212]

**Chris Grayling:** Claimants will be asked when making a claim to universal credit to provide details of any capital they have. For universal credit capital will include savings, stocks and shares, property and trusts. It will not include property occupied by the claimant as his or her main home, personal injury payments placed in trust funds, certain other compensation payments, personal pension schemes and retirement annuity contracts; or business assets.

### Work Capability Assessments

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work capability assessments he expects to have been completed for people previously in receipt of incapacity benefit by the end of *(a)* 2012, *(b)* each quarter of 2012 and *(c)* each month of 2012. [90213]

**Chris Grayling:** The information in the table can only ever be a forecast. In 2012 we expect the number of people, currently in receipt of incapacity benefit, who will receive a work capability assessment to be as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* By end of 2012 | 322,388 |
| *(b)* Each quarter of 2012 | 80,598 |
| *(c)* Each month in 2012 | 26,866 |

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 11 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, for what reasons Macmillan Cancer Support did not support the Government's proposals in relation to people with cancer. [90309]

**Chris Grayling:** As a result of evidence supplied by Macmillan Cancer Support (Macmillan), the Department developed proposals for changing the way in which the Work Capability Assessment assesses individuals being treated for cancer. We had hoped to introduce these proposals in April 2012. However, following detailed discussions with Macmillan, we have been unable to secure their support for our proposals.

Why Macmillan were unable to support our proposals is an issue for Macmillan, not for the Department, to address.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 11 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, what his timetable is for the introduction of new proposals on people with cancer in receipt of employment and support allowance. [90310]

**Chris Grayling:** In the Government's response to Professor Harrington's second independent review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA), we announced our intention to consult on our proposals for changing the WCA for cancer sufferers. An informal consultation was launched on 16 December 2011, which will run until 9 March 2012. The evidence will then be properly considered by the Department and we will publish a response document in spring 2012. This document will set out the evidence received and announce any proposals for changing the WCA.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many responses his Department has received to date to its consultation entitled Work Capability Assessment: accounting for the effects of cancer treatment. [90311]

**Chris Grayling:** To date we have received 12 responses to the consultation. The consultation runs until 9 March 2012 and during this time we are seeking views from interested stakeholders, particularly from individuals who have been or are being affected by cancer, their families and carers, health care practitioners and cancer specialists, and employers.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 12 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, (1) when he last met *(a)* Mind, *(b)* Mencap and *(c)* the National Autistic Society to discuss changes to the ESA50 questionnaire; [90313]

(2) what progress he has made on possible changes to the ESA50 questionnaire in relation to individuals with mental health conditions. [90314]

**Chris Grayling:** I met with representatives of Mind, Mencap and the National Autistic Society, together with Professor Tom Sensky who chaired Professor Harrington's scrutiny group which worked with the charities in developing their recommendations, on 12 September 2011. We discussed whether we could integrate into the ESA50 some of the principles of the recommendations which the charities had made to Professor Harrington.

Since that meeting the charities have met with officials from the Department for Work and Pensions on 13 October 2011 and 15 December 2011 to discuss the changes in detail. Good progress has been made, and an updated version of the form has been drafted.

Further consultation and testing will be carried out to ensure the changes have the desired result of helping to collect the best possible evidence ahead of a Work Capability Assessment. Our intention is that an updated version of the ESA50 will go live later this year.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 17 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, what assessment he has made of the changes to the descriptors in March 2011. [90324]

**Chris Grayling:** Changes were made to the descriptors in March 2011 following a Department-led review of the work capability assessment (WCA). The Department modelled and published details of the expected effects of these changes as part of the Department-led review.

As with any changes to the WCA, the Department monitors the effects of the changes closely. Monitoring of the WCA is done through a number of different means, including through annual independent reviews, internal monitoring and analysis, and auditing of Atos Healthcare.

### Work Experience

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* Greater London have participated in his Department's work experience programme. [89372]

**Chris Grayling:** Between January and August 2011, there were 3,700 starts on work experience in London and the home counties.

The Department does not publish work experience information at constituency level.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Public Expenditure

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of the reduction to its budget announced in the Autumn Statement; and if he will place in the Library the full content of any such assessment. [89160]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The potential effects of the reduction in the budget announced in the autumn statement is that the Government will not exceed their commitment to meet the target for international development spending of 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) from 2013.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many temporary staff were recruited to his Department between September and November 2011. [88001]

**Mr Duncan:** A total of 30 temporary staff (15 in September, 13 in October and two in November) were recruited into the Department for International Development between September and November 2011.

All posts were considered by an Approvals Panel as Business Critical—to provide surge capacity or to cover for the temporary absence of key staff.

### Development Aid

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to launch a public consultation on his plan to enshrine in law the UK's commitment to spend 0.7 per cent. of gross national income on overseas aid. [88045]

**Mr Duncan:** A draft Bill to enshrine the UK's commitment on spending 0.7% gross national income (GNI) on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) from 2013 onwards into law underwent full parliamentary scrutiny by the International Development Select Committee in 2009-10.

The commitment to proceed with enshrining 0.7% in law was subsequently included in all three main parties' manifestoes at the 2010 general election.

The Government remains committed to doing so, as set out in "The Coalition: our programme for government".

### Famine: International Co-operation

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his *(a)* European, *(b)* Commonwealth and *(c)* other international counterparts on endorsing the Charter to End Extreme Hunger. [89588]

**Mr Duncan:** The Government supports the aim of the Charter to End Extreme Hunger, which is to reduce the likelihood of crises such as that currently affecting the Horn of Africa taking place in the future. Analysis conducted by the Department for International Development concluded that of the Charter's 13 recommendations, the Government are already carrying out seven and considering another two. The four remaining recommendations we deem to be unworkable. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), wrote in November to the non-governmental organisations behind the Charter to let them know that therefore the Government would not formally endorse the Charter. The issue has not been raised in discussions with his international counterparts.

In at-risk areas such as the Horn, the Government are already supporting the strengthened warning systems, resilience to disasters and stability that the Charter calls for. In Ethiopia, for example, we are helping 7.8 million people to break their need for emergency aid by providing support before food insecurity reaches famine levels. The Secretary of State for International Development has also mobilised a group of high level political champions to make sure that much greater attention is given to disaster resilience in order to reduce the likelihood of similar crises taking place in the future—both in the Horn of Africa and elsewhere.

### Food Aid

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to endorse the Save the Children Charter to End Extreme Hunger. [89786]

**Mr Duncan:** The Government supports the aim of the Charter to End Extreme Hunger, which is to reduce the likelihood of crises such as that currently affecting the Horn of Africa taking place in the future. In at-risk areas such as the Horn, we are already supporting the strengthened warning systems, resilience to disasters and stability that the Charter calls for. In Ethiopia, for example, we are helping 7.8 million people to break their need for emergency aid by providing support before food insecurity reaches famine levels.

Analysis conducted by the Department for International Development concluded that of the Charter's 13 commitments, the Government are already carrying out seven and considering another two. The four remaining commitments we deem to be unworkable. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), wrote in November to the non-governmental organisations behind the Charter to note therefore that while the Government will not formally endorse the Charter, he will take appropriate opportunities to express publicly his support for the Charter's aims.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Asylum

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to review the town and cities which are used as dispersal areas for asylum seekers; and when any such review will take place. [89314]

**Damian Green:** There are no plans to conduct a formal review. However, accommodation providers are contractually required to maintain ongoing consultation arrangements with local authorities and heath, education and housing authorities in the areas where the asylum seekers are placed. This means that the impact of the dispersal policy on the particular area is regularly assessed.

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which towns and cities are designated as dispersal areas for asylum seekers. [89315]

**Damian Green:** The towns and cities that are currently used to accommodate destitute asylum seekers are:

Derby
Leicester
Nottingham
Ipswich
Luton
Norwich
Peterborough
Waltham Cross
Westcliff on Sea
Bilston
Birmingham
Brierly Hill
Coventry
Dudley
Oldbury Rowley Regis Smethwick
Stoke on Trent
Tipton
Walsall
Wednesbury
West Bromwich
Willenhal
Wolverhampton
Gateshead
Hartlepool
Hebburn
Jarrow
Middlesbrough
Newcastle Upon Tyne
North Shields
South Shields
Stockton on Tees
Sunderland
Wallsend
Barnsley
Bradford
Dewsbury
Doncaster
Halifax
Heckmondwike
Huddersfield
Hull
Keighley
Leeds
Normanton
Ossett
Pontefract
Rotherham
Sheffield
Shipley
Wakefield
London
Hastings
Oxford
Portsmouth
Southampton
Southsea
St Leonards on Sea
Altringham
Ashton Under Lyne
Blackburn
Bolton
Bury
Cheadle
Darwen
Heywood
Hyde
Leigh
Liverpool
Manchester
Oldham
Rochdale
Salford
Stalybridge
Stockport
Warrington
Wigan
Belfast
Glasgow
Bristol
Gloucester
Swindon
Plymouth
Cardiff
Newport
Swansea
Wrexham.

### Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many speechwriters her Department employs at each pay grade. [89382]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office employs one speechwriter at Grade 7 level. No other speechwriters are employed by the Home Office.

### Departmental Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in her Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87988]

**Damian Green:** This information in the form requested is not available.

During the period in question, £877,000 was charged to the Home Department in relation to voluntary redundancies. This figure includes both payments made to individuals and payments made into the pension fund to enable qualifying staff access to their current accrued pension.

### Deportation

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that once an overstayer is brought to the attention of the UK Border Agency, actions are put in place to update their records and instigate deportation. [90001]

**Damian Green:** The procedures the UK Border Agency has in place for dealing with all categories of immigration offenders, including overstayers, are set out in the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance (EIG) manual available to view on the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/

Overstayers are normally liable to administrative removal rather than deportation, and chapters 50 and 51 explain the process for serving notices on such offenders and their removal.

Cases are considered on an individual basis. When, however, an overstayer comes to attention, he would generally be served with a notice that explains his liability to removal from the UK. Consideration would also be given as to whether detention is appropriate. Where detention is not appropriate that person will be placed on reporting restrictions. Information is recorded on the UK Border Agency Case Information Database. Cases are progressed to removal by the UK Border Agency, who will manage any barriers to removal.

### EU Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which EU *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting her Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate she has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89673]

**Damian Green:** The following EU regulations and directives require transposition into UK law:

Council Regulation, (EC) No. 380/2008 of 18 April 2008 amends Regulation (EC) No. 1030/2002 which lays down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals.

Directives 2011/36/EU—Of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA.

Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

In addition, an order under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 is required to ensure that the Equality Act 2010 is, like its predecessor legislation, fully compliant with the following directives in respect of protection from victimisation following a relationship:

Directive 2000/43 (Race).

Directive 2006/54 (Recast Directive on equal treatment for men and women in employment and occupation).

Directive 2004/113 (equal treatment for men and women in the provision of goods, facilities and services.

Directive 2000/78 (Framework Directive on equal treatment in employment and occupation irrespective of age, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation).

There is also a body of EU legislation in the area of police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters, adopted prior to the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty, against which the Government are currently reviewing transposition obligations. These measures will acquire full European Court of Justice jurisdiction in 2014. The UK must decide whether to accept such jurisdiction or withdraw from the measures.

The Government are increasingly using impact assessments and associated control mechanisms (including a new Cabinet Committee and external scrutiny body) to control the costs of policy proposals. Specific emphasis is also being placed on avoiding "gold-plating" when transposing EU measures and the Government are alert to the need to "push back" on EU proposals which may have an adverse economic effect. Details of projected costs arising from the transposition of the biometric residence permit regulation, the human trafficking directive and the directive on the protection of animals for scientific purposes can be found in the respective impact assessments, which are publicly available.

With regard to plans for further UK legislation to ensure that the Equality Act 2010 is fully compliant with EU law, the Government intend to lay an Order in the House in due course. An impact assessment will accompany the Order, setting out any estimated compliance cost on businesses and public authorities.

### Extradition: Republic of Ireland

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many extradition requests the UK has made to the Republic of Ireland in relation to alleged scheduled terrorist offences in each year from 1980 to 1998; and how many such requests were *(a)* declined and *(b)* approved by the Republic of Ireland. [89583]

**Damian Green:** This information is not held centrally. Prior to 1 January 2004, when the European arrest warrant came into force, extradition between the UK and the Republic of Ireland was governed by the Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act 1965. The Act operated on a police-to-police basis and, as such there was no Home Office involvement. However, Home Office officials have examined historical records and consulted with colleagues in the Northern Ireland Office and the

Police Service of Northern Ireland, and between 1980 and 1998, at least 65 requests were made to the Republic of Ireland from the UK (excluding Scotland). At least 17 people were arrested, and six were extradited back to the UK. The extant records do not reveal whether any of these requests were formally declined.

**Mr Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many extradition requests the UK has made to the Republic of Ireland in relation to alleged scheduled terrorist offences from 1999 to 2010; and how many such extradition requests were declined by the Republic of Ireland. [89584]

**Damian Green:** The information for the period 1999 to 2003 is not held centrally. Prior to 1 January 2004, when the European arrest warrant (EAW) came into force, extradition between the UK and the Republic of Ireland was governed by the Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act 1965. The Act operated on a police-to-police basis and, as such there was no Home Office involvement. However, Home Office officials have examined historical records and consulted with colleagues in the Northern Ireland Office and the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and between 1999 and 2003 there are no records of such requests being made or declined.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for Scotland are the designated UK authorities responsible for processing European arrest warrants (EAWs). Information is held on Part 1 cases (persons wanted from the UK by another member state) and Part 3 cases (persons wanted by the UK from another member state).

Information on the number of Part 3 requests made under an EAW by offence type is only available from April 2009 due to a change in the way data were recorded from this date. For cases before this date, a manual examination of files would have to take place. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Since April 2009 there have been no Part 3 requests made to the Republic of Ireland where the principal offence is given as terrorism.

## Firearms: Licensing

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are licensed to own firearms in each parliamentary constituency. [88843]

**Nick Herbert:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Firearm certificates information by police force area can be found in Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2009-10, available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics

The next publication containing data for 2010-11 is scheduled to be published in March 2012.

## Human Trafficking

**Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which region each suspected victim of human trafficking referred to the Trafficking Victim Support Scheme run by the Salvation Army in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2011 was found; what their nationality was; and which agency or charity referred each case to the scheme. [81449]

**Mr Blunt:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Justice.

The following tables set out the information requested.

*(a) Referrals received in September 2011*

| *Nationality* | *Region* | *Referring organisation* |
|---|---|---|
| Lesotho | South East | Charity |
| Lithuanian | South East | Charity |
| Romanian | West Midlands | NHS |
| Romanian | South East | NHS |
| Polish | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Slovakian | South West | Social services |
| Slovakian | North West | Police |
| Romanian | South East | Charity |
| Nigerian | South East | Prison service |
| Slovakian | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Slovakian | Yorkshire | Charity |
| UK | East | Police |
| UK | East | Police |
| Polish | East | Police |
| Polish | East | Police |
| UK | East | Police |
| Polish | East | Police |
| UK | East | Police |
| Latvian | East | Police |
| Polish | East | Police |
| UK | East | Police |
| UK | East | Police |
| Lithuanian | East | Police |
| UK | East | Police |

*(a) Referrals received in September 2011*

| *Nationality* | *Region* | *Referring organisation* |
|---|---|---|
| UK | East | Police |
| UK | East | Police |
| Nigerian | South East | Prison service |
| Nigerian | South East | Police |
| Slovakian | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Slovakian | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Slovakian | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Polish | Yorkshire | Social services |
| Czech | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Czech | South East | Self-referral |
| Polish | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Polish | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Hungarian | South East | Police |
| Hungarian | South East | Police |
| Hungarian | South East | Police |
| Hungarian | South East | Police |
| Czech | West Midlands | Police |
| Slovakian | South East | Police |
| Romanian | South East | Police |
| Nigerian | South East | Police |
| Nigerian | Wales | Legal representative |
| Romanian | West Midlands | NHS |
| Romanian | West Midlands | NHS |
| Chinese | South West | Charity |
| Romanian | West Midlands | Police |
| Vietnamese | South East | Legal representative |
| Ghanaian | South East | Charity |
| Slovakian | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Nigerian | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Nigerian | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Sri Lankan | South East | Charity |
| Romanian | South East | Police |
| Chinese | South East | UK Human Trafficking Centre |

*(b) Referrals received in October 2011*

| *Nationality* | *Region* | *Referring organisation* |
|---|---|---|
| Nigerian | East | UK Border Agency |
| Latvian | South West | Police |
| Slovakian | Yorkshire | Police |
| Nigerian | East | Charity |
| Bangladeshi | South East | Charity |
| Chinese | East | Police |
| Hungarian | East Midlands | Police |
| Polish | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Chinese | South East | Charity |
| Latvian | North West | Police |
| Latvian | North West | Police |
| Albanian | South East | Social services |
| Romanian | South East | Charity |
| South African | South East | NHS |
| Nigerian | South East | Charity |
| St Lucian | South East | Police |
| Jamaican | South East | Social services |
| Ugandan | South East | Police |
| Ghanaian | South East | Charity |
| Guinean | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Ugandan | Wales | UK Border Agency |
| Vietnamese | North West | Legal representative |
| Romanian | South East | Police |
| Slovakian | Yorkshire | Charity |
| Romanian | South East | Social services |
| Romanian | South East | Social services |
| Romanian | South East | Social services |

*(b) Referrals received in October 2011*

| *Nationality* | *Region* | *Referring organisation* |
|---|---|---|
| Albanian | South West | UK Human Trafficking Centre |
| Guinean | South East | UK Border Agency |
| Slovakian | South East | Charity |

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 24 November 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) with regard to Mr S. A. Sadoon. [90268]

**Damian Green:** I refer the right hon. Member to my letter of 16 January 2012.

### Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency paid the National Offender Management Service for the service level agreement to operate the Morton Hall immigration removal centre. [89758]

**Damian Green:** Morton Hall immigration removal centre is run by the National Offender Management Service on behalf of the UK Border Agency.

UK Border Agency will pay £10,680,000 to the National Offender Management Service in 2011-12 under the service level agreement for the running of Morton Hall immigration removal centre. The UK Border Agency will also pay £491,244 to the National Offender Management Service in 2011-12 for the start-up costs.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse of refurbishing Morton Hall was prior to it being operated as an immigration removal centre. [89759]

**Damian Green:** The cost of refurbishing Morton Hall for use as an immigration removal centre was £5.76 million. This figure includes all IT provision, fixtures and fittings, additional security works, fees and consultancy, as well as building and upgrade works.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees at the Morton Hall immigration removal centre have been transferred to *(a)* a different location and *(b)* a prison as a result of disciplinary matters. [89761]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency aims to keep the number of transfers between its places of detention to a minimum. Inevitably, there are occasions when detainees are moved for a variety of reasons. These may be because their behaviour requires them to be held in a more secure environment, because they are required for an interview at a particular centre or because they are being moved close to an airport for their removal from the UK.

The reasons for moving detainees are not recorded centrally and would require examination of each individual record in order to provide the answer, which would be at disproportionate cost.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse of providing taxi services for visitors to Morton Hall immigration removal centre was in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such journeys have been paid for from the public purse. [89763]

**Damian Green:** All costs, including those related to the provision of taxi services for visitors at the Morton Hall immigration removal centre, are funded by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) from within the single annual service level agreement payment to the National Offender Management Service as the operator of the establishment. UKBA does not routinely request a breakdown of the elements of the service level agreement payment to the level of detail requested. Such analysis could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of the educational and recreational activities provided to detainees at Morton Hall immigration removal centre in the latest period for which figures are available. [89764]

**Damian Green:** All costs, including those related to educational and recreational activities provided to detainees at the Morton Hall immigration removal centre, are funded by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) from within the single annual service level agreement payment to the National Offender Management Service as the operator of the establishment. UKBA does not routinely request a breakdown of the elements of the service level agreement payment to the level of detail requested. Such analysis could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been detained at Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre since it opened; and how many such people have subsequently left the UK. [89765]

**Damian Green:** The requested information is not available. There were 456 people entering detention, solely under Immigration Act powers at Morton Hall from 16 May 2011 (the date Morton Hall opened) to 30 September 2011, the latest date for which information has been published. These figures are of people who have entered Morton Hall as the first place of detention and exclude people transferred into Morton Hall from other immigration removal centres.

Morton Hall was the last place of detention for 155 people who left immigration detention between 16 May and 30 September 2011, the latest date for which information has been published. Of these, 39 have subsequently been removed. These figures exclude people who have been transferred to other immigration removal centres before leaving detention. Data on all persons who have left Morton Hall and have subsequently been removed are not available.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of people entering and leaving detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers. Q4 2011 detention figures will be published on 23 February 2012 and will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

### Offenders: Mental Illness

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1044-6W, on mental health: patients, how many of those released after having been detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 have been convicted of a crime in each of the last three years. [89628]

**Mr Blunt:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Justice.

Just over 1,700 restricted patients were discharged for the first time by the Mental Health Review Tribunal or with the consent of the then Secretary of State between 1999 and 2007. Of these, 1,550 offenders were found on the Police National Computer (PNC) data held by the Ministry of Justice, and 5.8% of these were found to have been reconvicted within two years of their discharge.

These figures are the latest available, and are taken from paper 3.1 in the Compendium of reoffending statistics and analysis, published on 4 November 2010.

The yearly breakdowns have been combined because in any single year the number of patients discharged for the first time and who went on to be reconvicted is too small for robust analysis. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the reconviction figures provided, which represent only those patients first discharged and matched on the Police National Computer and therefore do not capture all patients discharged into the community in a given year or take into account recalls.

This answer is limited to re-offending by restricted patients, data on re-offending by other patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 (civil patients and patients subject to an unrestricted hospital order) is not collated centrally.

### Police: Manpower

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many CID officers there were in each police force *(a)* on 5 October 2010 and *(b)* in the most recent period for which figures are available. [90015]

**Nick Herbert:** These data are collected centrally at the end and midpoint of a financial year and are therefore unavailable specifically for 5 October 2010. The latest available information shows the number of police officers within CID and CID specialist crime unit functions (full-time equivalent), by police force area in England and Wales, as at 31 March 2011. Staff with multiple responsibilities are recorded under their primary role or function.

*Police officer CID functions-(FTE)[2] in England and Wales as at 31 March 2011[3]*

| | *CID[4]* | *CID specialist crime units[5]* |
|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 376 | 0 |
| Bedfordshire | 180 | 50 |
| Cambridgeshire | 207 | 45 |
| Cheshire | 232 | 118 |
| Cleveland | 190 | 0 |
| Cumbria | 91 | 19 |
| Derbyshire | 255 | 94 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 472 | 0 |
| Dorset | 115 | 45 |
| Durham | 96 | 44 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 89 | 6 |
| Essex | 365 | 83 |
| Gloucestershire | 128 | 0 |
| Greater Manchester | 862 | 325 |
| Gwent | 89 | 58 |
| Hampshire | 331 | 106 |
| Hertfordshire | 308 | 57 |
| Humberside | 338 | 0 |
| Kent | 428 | 75 |
| Lancashire | 396 | 100 |
| Leicestershire | 235 | 105 |
| Lincolnshire | 128 | 3 |
| London, City of | 98 | 0 |
| Merseyside | 308 | 272 |
| Metropolitan Police | 3,817 | 106 |
| Norfolk | 203 | 28 |
| Northamptonshire | 167 | 27 |
| Northumbria | 384 | 98 |
| North Wales | 114 | 45 |

*Police officer CID functions-(FTE)[2] in England and Wales as at 31 March 2011[3]*

| | CID[4] | CID specialist crime units[5] |
|---|---|---|
| North Yorkshire | 117 | 0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 330 | 0 |
| South Wales | 344 | 93 |
| South Yorkshire | 357 | 141 |
| Staffordshire | 283 | 48 |
| Suffolk | 132 | 37 |
| Surrey | 199 | 149 |
| Sussex | 319 | 8 |
| Thames Valley | 512 | 2 |
| Warwickshire | 121 | 0 |
| West Mercia | 242 | 61 |
| West Midlands | 825 | 16 |
| West Yorkshire | 292 | 252 |
| Wiltshire | 124 | 5 |

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.

[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.

[3] Data are correct as at 12 July 2011.

[4] Definition of the CID function: Staff mainly employed in plain clothes or supporting those employed in plain clothes for the investigation of crime. Staff who predominantly investigate crime or support the investigation of crime and who are not shown under other specific squad headings. Does not include members of a squad set up on an ad hoc basis to deal with a temporary or local problem. These are included under their normal category. Includes officers formerly recorded as 'CID aides/trainee investigators', i.e. includes officers temporarily seconded to CID but not those on short attachments for familiarisation or assessment purposes. Includes staff who are predominantly employed on administrative, clerical or other support duties on behalf of general CID, asset confiscation, burglary, drugs, fraud, stolen vehicles, vice or other permanent CID squads. Includes those officers/staff in supporting roles.

[5] Definition of the CID specialist units function: Includes any specialist squads or units, analysts or administrative assistants employed not specifically mentioned elsewhere, e.g. robbery, major crime units.

## Prisoners: Repatriation

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department spent on grants under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each year since 2006; [89750]

(2) how much her Department spent on administering the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each year since 2006. [89751]

**Damian Green:** In her letter of 4 February 2010, Lin Homer, the former chief executive of the UK Border Agency, informed the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) that the cost of running the Facilitated Return Scheme from inception in October 2006 to March 2009 was approximately £4.3 million. A further letter to the HASC of 9 December 2010, advised that the cost of the Facilitated Return Scheme in 2009-10 was £7.1 million (inclusive of £2.3 million of EU funding). The cost of the Facilitated Return Scheme for 2010-11 was £13 million (inclusive of EU funding of £2.7 million).

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have been awarded grants under the Facilitated Grants Scheme in each year since 2006; and to which countries they were returned. [89752]

**Damian Green:** The top six countries taking up the Facilitated Return Scheme are Vietnam, Nigeria, China, Jamaica, India and Pakistan.

Information on the number of foreign nationals awarded grants under the Facilitated Return Scheme since 2006 and the countries to which they were deported is not held centrally and collation would incur a review of individual files at a disproportionate cost. However, the overall percentage of those removed under the Facilitated Return Scheme from 2007-10 are as follows:

In 2007: FRS accounted for around 30% of removals—4,200

In 2008: FRS accounted for around 30% of removals—5,395

In 2009: FRS accounted for around 30% of removals—5,530

In 2010: FRS accounted for around 50% of removals—5,342

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the 20 largest sums paid to individuals under the Facilitated Returns Scheme have been in each year since 2006; [89753]

(2) how many individuals awarded grants under the Facilitated Returns Scheme there were *(a)* who did not leave the UK and *(b)* whose location is unknown in each year since 2006. [89754]

**Damian Green:** Information on the sums paid to individuals under the Facilitated Return Scheme since 2006 is not held centrally and would incur a review of individual files at a disproportionate cost. The largest amount offered under the Facilitated Return Scheme was £5,000 but the offer of this amount ceased on 1 October 2010 for new applications. The largest amount now available is £1,500. No individual will have received amounts in excess of these figures.

Funds are only given at the point of departure so that individuals who do not leave are not able to access grants under the Facilitated Return Scheme if they fail to leave the UK.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individuals awarded grants under the Facilitated Returns Scheme have subsequently returned to the UK; [89755]

(2) how many individuals have been awarded more than one grant under the Facilitated Returns Scheme in each year since 2006. [89756]

**Damian Green:** All individuals who meet the deportation criteria and leave the UK under the Facilitated Returns Scheme are fingerprinted. They are placed on Watch Lists in order to prevent them from returning to the UK after removal. Information is not centrally held of those who may circumvent the immigration controls and return clandestinely or use other identities to gain entry to the UK. This would incur a review of individual files at a disproportionate cost.

A foreign national is not able to benefit from the Facilitated Returns Scheme on more than one occasion.

### Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many orders were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted under the provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each of the last five years; and how many of these were sought in cases of over-fishing. [89845]

**Nick Herbert:** The total number of orders granted under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for the last five years was 26,065, with a combined value of £1.2 billion. The information held centrally is based on the value of all crimes and it is not possible to break down the figures to the detail sought.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue was received under the provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 from cases of over-fishing in each region in each of the last five years. [89846]

**Nick Herbert:** This information is not held centrally.

### Prostitution: Greater London

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many brothel closures there have been as a result of intervention by police public protection teams in each London borough in each month since January 2010. [90255]

**Damian Green:** This information is not held centrally.

### Metal Theft

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to assess the pilot project in the North East requiring identification from vendors of scrap metal. [90404]

**Damian Green:** Operation Tornado, the pilot project that was launched on 6 January 2012, will run for six months. The British Transport police will provide the Home Office with regular assessments during the course of the project.

### Sexual Offences: Travel Restrictions

**Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many child sex offenders have had their passports withheld since the Policing and Crime Act 2009 came into force; and if she will make a statement; [90278]

(2) what assessment she has made of the use of worldwide travel orders for child sex offenders; and if she will make a statement; [90279]

(3) what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in preventing child sex offenders from travelling abroad. [90280]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Under section 25 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 (which came into force in April 2010) only those offenders subject to a worldwide foreign travel order (FTO) can be required to surrender their passport. A search of the ViSOR database (a UK-wide system, managed by the National Policing Improvement Agency, which is used to store and share information and manage those individuals who have been identified as posing a risk of serious harm to the public) has shown that there are fewer than five offenders who have been required to do this.

Decisions on whether to apply to the magistrates court for an FTO are an operational matter for the police, where they consider there to be a risk of harm to children overseas.

The Policing and Crime Act 2009 introduced amendments to increase the protection offered by Foreign Travel Orders, including:

increasing the duration an order can be issued for from six months to five years;

increasing the age threshold of a child who must be at risk before a FTO is made from 16 to 18 years old; and

automatically removing passports from individuals who are subject to a blanket FTO banning them from travelling abroad to any country in the world.

We continue to keep the available tools and powers in this area under review and the Government are doing everything we can to tighten the law on sex offenders and protect the public both in the UK and abroad.

That is why we have recently consulted on strengthening notification requirements for registered sex offenders still further, including making it compulsory for registered sex offenders to notify the police of all foreign travel (currently only travel of three days or more is notified). We will be making an announcement on the outcome of this consultation shortly.

### Specialist Crime Division 9

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of Specialist Crime Division 9 after the London 2012 London Olympics. [90254]

**Nick Herbert:** As a unit within the Metropolitan police, any plans for the future of Specialist Crime Division 9 are the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

### Metal Theft

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with the British Metals Recycling Association on stricter self-regulation of scrap metal dealing. [90405]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office has regular discussions with the British Metals Recycling Association on action that their members can take to make self-regulation more effective. This resulted, for example, in the implementation of a new code of conduct in 2010. The Government are now considering whether tackling the problem of metal theft is likely to require new legislation.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of permitting cash-based transactions on the detection of scrap metal thieves. [90406]

**Damian Green:** The ease with which criminals can sell metal for cash with little prospect of being detected is a powerful driver behind metal theft. The Government are currently considering a range of legislative options to deal with the growing problem of metal theft, including whether cash payments for scrap metal should be prohibited.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals she plans to bring forward to amend existing legislation on the sale and disposal of scrap metal in order to prevent metal theft. [90427]

**Damian Green:** Discussions are under way across Government to agree the legislative changes needed to tackle metal theft. We will announce our proposals shortly.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional resources she is considering making available to the British Transport police following the recent increase in metal theft involving railway cable. [90428]

**Damian Green:** The Government are committing £5 million to establish a dedicated metal theft taskforce, as set out in the National Infrastructure Plan. The taskforce will be coordinated by the British Transport police.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to *(a)* regulate and *(b)* close illegal scrap metal dealing yards. [90429]

**Damian Green:** The Government are currently considering a range of legislative options to deal with the growing problem of metal theft, including a more robust licensing regime for scrap metal dealers. Work is also under way by law enforcement organisations, including through a new, dedicated metal theft taskforce, to identify scrap metal yards which are operating illegally and take the appropriate action.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to discuss with the Secretary of State for Justice increases in the penalties for scrap metal theft and illegal dealing in scrap metal. [90430]

**Damian Green:** The Government are currently considering a range of legislative options to deal with the growing problem of metal theft, including what changes could be made to the sentencing options available for convicted metal theft offenders.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Local Government Association on strengthening co-ordinated action by trading standards officers against illegal scrap metal dealing. [90431]

**Damian Green:** Home Office officials are discussing the role of local authorities in tackling metal theft with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association and with local authorities directly.

### Theft: Natural Gas

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on local communities of the theft of gas cylinders; and what steps she plans to take to reduce the incidence of such theft. [89950]

**Damian Green:** The theft of gas cylinders for their scrap value is a growing problem. The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers are working with UKLPG, the trade association for the Liquid Petroleum Gas industry, and the scrap metal industry to highlight the serious risks associated with handling cylinders that contain flammable gas, and to promote legitimate disposal routes. The Government are also reviewing the legislation governing the scrap metal industry in order to restrict the market for stolen metal.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department provided to *(a)* Action on Addiction, *(b)* Adoption UK, *(c)* the Adoption and Fostering Information Line, *(d)* the Child Bereavement Charity, *(e)* Well Child and *(f)* each of East Anglia's children's hospices in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [89771]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The Home Department has not provided funding to any of the listed organisations over the last two financial years.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biofuels

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider the recommendation by the Committee on Climate Change in its Bioenergy Review that his Department's bioenergy strategy includes an assessment of the global wood industry; and if he will make a statement. [90218]

**Gregory Barker:** Yes. The cross-Government UK bioenergy strategy is examining three main issues:

the availability of sustainably-sourced feedstocks to 2020 and beyond;

the potential impacts (economic and carbon) of using biomass in the energy sector including for alternative uses such as by the wood industry; and

the most appropriate uses of biomass feedstocks in the energy sector (electricity, heat and transport) to 2020 and beyond taking into account wider Government objectives such as cost-effectiveness, carbon abatement potential, renewables targets and security of supply.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what effect will the recommendation by the Committee on Climate Change that the use of woody biomass in construction should be a priority have on his Department's bioenergy strategy; and if he will make a statement. [90219]

**Gregory Barker:** The cross-Government UK bio energy strategy will be responding to the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change's bioenergy review and is due for publication in the spring.

### Biomass: Scotland

**Mrs McGuire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the relevance to his Department's policies of the recommendations in the report commissioned by the Forestry Commission Scotland and the Scottish Government on supporting biomass electricity in the renewables obligation (Scotland); and if he will make a statement. [90257]

**Charles Hendry:** The consultation on the renewables obligation (RO), the main support mechanism for large-scale renewable electricity generation in England and Wales, closed on 12 January. We are considering all consultation responses and relevant information, including the biomass electricity report recently prepared for Scotland and cross-Government work to develop a UK bioenergy strategy, to ensure that RO support levels deliver value for money for consumer spend on energy and across the bioeconomy more widely.

### Coal-fired Power Stations

**Mr Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which coal-fired power stations he expects to close as a result of the EU large combustion plant directive; and what estimate he has made of the number of remaining running hours for each such plant. [88864]

**Charles Hendry:** Details of the coal-fired power stations closing under the large combustion plant directive and their remaining running hours are publically available on the NETA/Elexon website at:

http://www.bmreports.com/bsp/bsp_home.htm

(see 'General'—'Further Market Data'—'Large Combustion Plant Directive').

The following table shows the coal-fired stations that will close under the EU large combustion plant directive, along with the running hours remaining for each plant, as at the end of November 2011.

| *Plant* | *Hours remaining (as at end-November 2011)* |
|---|---|
| Cockenzie Units 1 and 2 | 3,134 |
| Cockenzie Units 3 and 4 | 4,156 |
| Didcot A | 9,119 |
| Ferrybridge (1 and 2) | 8,955 |
| Ironbridge | 11,607 |
| Kingsnorth | 5,231 |
| Tilbury (7 and 8) | 7,834 |
| Tilbury (9 and 10) | 7,446 |
| Total | 57,482 |

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which coal-fired power plants need to be decommissioned to meet the UK's obligations under the large combustion directive; and when such power plants are likely to be taken out of service. [88874]

**Charles Hendry:** Details of the coal-fired power stations closing under the large combustion plant directive and their remaining running hours are publically available on the NETA/Elexon website:

http://www.bmreports.com/bsp/bsp_home.htm

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| Tilbury (9 and 10) | 7,446 |
| Total | 57,482 |

The operation and closure of coal-fired power stations (including the use of their remaining running hours) under the EU large combustion plant directive is a commercial decision for generators.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89147]

**Gregory Barker:** Fourteen staff with payroll costs of £320,000 undertook apprenticeships in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in 2010-11. No specific budget was set aside for apprentices as a group. The pay and pension entitlement received by apprentices is influenced by the apprentice's age.

Pay costs of DECC apprentices in 2011-12 were £345,000. No specific budget was set aside for apprentices, as a group.

No specific budget has been set aside in 2012-13. Expenditure will depend on the number of suitable vacancies arising within the Department.

### Departmental Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89682]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department and its non-departmental public bodies use non-consolidated performance-related payments to help drive high performance in the organisations as they:

1. encourage continuous high attainment because the payments are dependent upon continuing strong performance
2. prevent a permanent rise in salary and an increase in pension on the basis of one-off performances while still allowing good performance to be rewarded
3. have no long-term costs and, in particular, do not increase future pension payments
4. focus the work of employees more directly on the priority goals of the organisation
5. motivate employees by linking an element of compensation to the achievement of objectives rather than offering payment for time served
6. target money at those who make the biggest contribution.

Details of the payments the Department of Energy and Climate Change and its non-departmental bodies have made in each of the respective years have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Energy: Billing

**Steve Rotheram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with energy companies on ways to simplify the design of energy bills. [90274]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC Ministers and officials meet energy companies on a regular basis to discuss a range of market issues.

Ofgem recently published proposals as part of its Retail Market Review relating to the design and content of energy bills.

In addition, Ofgem has issued an open letter in which it sets out its ongoing work to simplify and reduce the regulatory burden where this is consistent with protecting the interests of consumers. It also seeks the views of stakeholders on this, including ideas to improve the clarity of information provided by suppliers to their customers.

Details of this open letter are available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/About%20us/BetterReg/Documents1/Ofgems%20approach%20to%20removing%20unnecessary%20burdens.pdf

### Energy: Conservation

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects updated Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 guidance to be published. [90449]

**Gregory Barker:** The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires local authorities (LAs) with housing responsibilities to report on action to improve the energy efficiency in their residential accommodation. The Green Deal will fundamentally alter the landscape against which LAs will fulfil this requirement.

LAs are currently considering the Green Deal proposals, which were published for consultation on 23 November, and what this means for their plans for energy efficiency locally. With this in mind, we therefore propose to issue new HECA guidance in spring 2012.

We are currently considering the future scope of guidance under HECA and will develop proposals in partnership with local government in the context of DECC's Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government Association.

### Energy: Fracking

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's latest estimate is of the reserves of shale gas in the UK; what his Department's policy is on the extraction of shale gas; and if he will make a statement. [89908]

**Charles Hendry:** A British Geological Survey study in 2010 estimated that if UK shales were similarly productive to those in the USA they could yield some 150 billion cubic metres of gas, equivalent to roughly two years' of UK demand.

The BGS is currently undertaking more detailed work on the extent of the underlying resource, which will also take into account last year's drilling results of Cuadrilla in Lancashire.

However, little drilling has yet taken place and commercial production of shale gas has not been proven in the UK, so it is not yet possible to make a reliable estimate of recoverable reserves.

As with conventional oil and gas activity, if there does prove to be commercially producible quantities of UK shale gas, the Government would support industry in tapping into such resources, so long as such exploitation proves to be technically and economically viable and can be carried out with full regard to the protection of the environment.

### Energy Costs: Older People

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the cost of fuel on the well-being of older people; and if he will make a statement. [89303]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC is committed to helping people, especially low-income vulnerable households, heat their homes more affordably. This winter we are working with energy suppliers to deliver the Warm Home Discount scheme. We are also providing heating and insulation measures through Warm Front and developing our proposals for the Green Deal and the energy company obligation.

In addition, we are working closely with the Department of Health on its Cold Weather Plan, which aims to avoid the adverse health effects of winter by raising public awareness and triggering actions by those in contact with people most at risk.

### Energy: Prices

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the cost of energy generated from *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity has changed over the last (i) year and (ii) 10 years. [89305]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC publishes a wide range of energy price statistics relating to market transactions. These are published in Quarterly Energy Prices:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx

A copy of this is also available in the Libraries of the House.

The Department does not, however, record costs of all aspects of energy generation.

**Mr Watts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with energy companies on the cost of energy; where and when any such discussions took place; and whether he received any assurances from the energy companies that they would cut energy prices. [90359]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC Ministers and officials meet energy companies on a regular basis to discuss a range of market issues.

I welcome that EDF, British Gas, SSE, Npower, E.ON, and Scottish Power have joined small suppliers Co-op and Ovo by recently announcing cuts to domestic energy bills.

**Mr Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of spending on *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity by households in each household income decile in the latest year for which figures are available. [90366]

**Charles Hendry:** The data requested are available from the Living Costs and Food Survey, carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The Family Spending publication summarises data from this survey and provides data (in table A6) on household expenditure on gas and electricity by gross income decile group. The latest year that data are available for is 2010:

| | *Average weekly household expenditure (£)* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Gross income decile group* | *(a) Gas* | *(b) Electricity* |
| 1 (lowest 10%) | 6.00 | 6.80 |
| 2 | 7.40 | 8.20 |
| 3 | 8.00 | 8.90 |
| 4 | 8.60 | 8.80 |
| 5 | 9.20 | 9.70 |
| 6 | 10.20 | 10.10 |
| 7 | 9.80 | 10.50 |
| 8 | 11.00 | 10.20 |
| 9 | 12.50 | 11.50 |
| 10 (highest 10%) | 13.80 | 14.70 |

### Fossil Fuels

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to include the issue of global fossil fuel subsidy reform on the agenda of the Clean Energy Ministerial 2012. [89552]

**Charles Hendry:** International fossil fuel subsidy reform has the potential to lead to significant reductions in global demand for hydrocarbons and carbon emissions. The UK has strongly supported the G20 initiative to rationalise and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that promote wasteful consumption and will continue to work through the G20 to seek progress on these issues.

We believe it is important that international action in this area is not confused by duplication and so do not believe that it is appropriate for the issue to be specifically on the Clean Energy Ministerial agenda. However, this does not rule out the issue arising in the discussions that we are expecting at the meeting.

### Power Failures

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effect of voltage fluctuations on household *(a)* energy consumption and *(b)* electrical devices. [88889]

**Charles Hendry:** DECC has not undertaken an assessment of the effect of voltage fluctuations on household energy consumption or electrical devices.

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effect of voltage optimisation devices on household energy consumption. [88890]

**Charles Hendry:** Electricity networks are designed to operate within a range of voltage fluctuations. Voltage optimisation devices operate by smoothing out these fluctuations so that the consumer can receive electricity at a constant voltage. There have been claims by industry that these devices can help households save electricity. DECC has not undertaken an assessment of the effect these devices have on household energy consumption. However, a trial of one such device undertaken as part of the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) scheme, which is administered by Ofgem, demonstrated savings in electricity use.

### Renewable Energy

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely effects on consumers' bills of the growth of renewable electricity generation as set out in his Department's route map for renewables. [89460]

**Charles Hendry:** In November 2011 we published the estimated impact of energy and climate change policies on average household energy bills in the year 2020. This estimates that the renewables obligation (supporting large-scale renewable electricity) would add £48 to an average annual domestic bill and feed-in tariffs (for small-scale renewable energy generation) would add £6[1].

On 23 November 2011, alongside the Annual Energy Statement, DECC published an assessment of the cumulative impact of climate change and energy polices on energy prices and bills in 2011, 2020 and 2030, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/aes/impacts/inipacts.aspx

Our assessment indicated that the average household energy bill in 2020 was estimated to be around 7% lower than it would have been in the same year if energy and climate change policies were not introduced. This result is based on DECC's fossil fuel price scenario consistent with a wholesale gas price of 68p/th in 2020 (in real 2010 prices).

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[1] It should be noted that these estimates will be updated as part of the Government response to the FITs comprehensive review and the RO banding review.

### Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total expenditure on the feed-in tariff was in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [89596]

**Gregory Barker:** The total expenditure on the feed-in tariff scheme in each of the last four quarters are shown in the following table. These figures include both generation and export payments (deemed and metered).

| *Quarter* | *Total expenditure on feed-in tariffs (£)* |
|---|---|
| October to December 2010 | 3,519,463 |
| January to March 2011 | 4,589,371 |
| April to June 2011 | 10,101,593 |
| July to September 2011 | 24,576,702 |

*Source:*
Ofgem, Levelisation report:
http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/fits/Levelisation/Pages/Levelisation.aspx

The eligibility date marks the start of the period during which installations are eligible to receive FITs payments. Tariffs will be paid for a set period of time depending on the technology installed (e.g. 25 years for solar PV), and the total expenditure for each quarter includes payments made to all installations, including those installed in previous quarters. Data are published by Ofgem approximately three months after the start of the previous levelisation process.

### River Severn: Tidal Power

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what meetings he has had to discuss the potential development of the Severn Barrage; and what matters were discussed; [90388]

(2) what plans he has for future development of the Severn Barrage; and if he will make a statement. [90433]

**Charles Hendry:** All meetings between external organisations and DECC Ministers are published quarterly on the DECC website at the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx

A private sector consortium seeking to develop a tidal barrage on the Severn estuary has recently submitted a draft business plan to Government and, following discussions with officials, is providing further information on a number of issues.

### Solar Power

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the number of households likely to have solar PV in *(a)* 2015 and *(b)* 2020. [88892]

**Gregory Barker:** Estimates of future solar PV growth are extremely uncertain. DECC is currently reviewing its estimates in the light of responses to the current consultation on PV tariffs as well as other recent changes in the market and will provide updated assessments for the final impact assessment published alongside the post-consultation policy response.

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households have installed *(a)* solar PV and *(b)* solar water heating. [88893]

**Gregory Barker:** The latest monthly published statistics show that at the end of December 2011 the number of solar PV schemes (of sub 50kW capacity) installed on the Microgeneration Certificate Scheme database (MCS) was 230,467. Of these, 61% (141,033) have been confirmed on Ofgem's Central FiT Register (CFR).

In addition, there were 3,534 solar PVs scheme installations confirmed on the CFR but not registered on the MCS database at the end of December 2011. These installations are not registered on the MCS database since the installation capacity is greater than 50kW.

DECC does not currently hold any statistics on solar water heating.

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of energy production will come from solar energy in *(a)* 2012 and *(b)* 2013. [89627]

**Gregory Barker:** The estimated proportion of total electricity and energy demand in 2012-13 and 2013-14 that will be met by solar photovoltaic (PV) is set out in the following table. Solar PV output projections are based on the lead option (central scenario) from the impact assessment supporting the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV, updated to reflect installations data until the end of October 2011. Demand forecasts are based on DECC Updated Energy Projections:

| | *2012-13* | *2013-14* |
|---|---|---|
| Output from solar PV, central scenario (GWh) | 760 | 850 |
| Total electricity demand[1] (TWh) | 358 | 357 |
| Total energy demand[1] (TWh) | 2,528 | 2,511 |
| Solar output as percentage of total electricity demand | 0.21 | 0.24 |
| Solar output as percentage of total energy demand | 0.03 | 0.03 |

*Sources:*
1. DECC, Updated Energy Projections October 2011, Annex E.
2. DECC, Updated Energy Projections October 2011, Annex H. See: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/en_emis_projs/en_emis_projs.aspx

### Warm Home Discount Scheme

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* pensioner and *(b)* non-pensioner households have received assistance from (i) EDF Energy, (ii) Atlantic, (iii) British Gas, (iv) SWALEC, (v) E.ON, (vi) npower, (vii) Scottish Hydro, (viii) Scottish Power, (ix) Southern Electric and (x) SSE under the Warm Home Discount scheme; and what the average level of assistance was per household. [89414]

**Gregory Barker:** 2011-12 is the first year of the Warm Home Discount scheme. A report will be published following the end of this scheme year detailing supplier expenditure in 2011-12 for the core and non-core elements of the scheme. In total, suppliers will provide support worth up to £250 million in 2011-12 and assist around two million low-income and vulnerable households. This will include the provision of Core Group discounts of £120 to over 600,000 pensioners in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only. The level of contribution suppliers should provide is proportionate to their market share.

### Warm Home Discount Scheme: Mobile Homes

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure park home owners receive a warm home discount payment. [89535]

**Gregory Barker:** The Warm Home Discount scheme requires participating energy suppliers to provide assistance to their low-income, vulnerable consumers directly through discounts on their energy bill from their energy supplier. In order to benefit from the scheme, customers, or their partner, must be named on the electricity account with a participating energy supplier. Therefore, discounts under the Warm Home Discount scheme would be available to those living in park homes who do have electricity accounts in their own name. Assistance would not be available to those who do not have their own electricity account with an energy supplier, for example those who pay for their energy through their rent.

This issue was considered during the consultation process for the Warm Home Discount scheme, which was published on 28 February 2010 and is available at:

> www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/warm-home-discount/1307-gov-response-warm-homes-disc-cons.pdf

### Wind Power

**Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much was paid to wind farm companies in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Great Britain through constraint payments in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011; [89182]

(2) which energy companies supplying energy from wind farms in the UK received constraint payments in 2011; [89190]

(3) which *(a)* British and *(b)* non-British based energy companies received constraint payments in 2011. [89191]

**Charles Hendry:** A routine part of National Grid's role is to balance electricity supply and demand. It undertakes a number of activities to achieve this, including making constraint payments to generators through the balancing mechanism. The number and relative value of constraint payments made to wind farms is small compared to overall constraint payments made to generators of all types:

(a) No constraint payments were made to wind farms operating in Wales in 2010 or 2011.

(b) (i) In 2010, constraint payments totalling £176,702 were made to wind farms through the balancing mechanism.

(b) (ii) In 2011, constraint payments totalling £12.1 million were made to wind farms through the balancing mechanism. In addition, National Grid undertook a number of forward energy trades through the market in order to balance the system. These are also classed as constraint payments and resulted in £12.7 million being paid to wind farms.

By comparison, overall payments to all types of generators to balance the system totalled £708 million for the financial year 2010-11.

National Grid has advised that forward energy trades are commercially confidential, and is therefore not able to provide details of which energy companies received such payments. Energy companies supplying energy from wind farms received constraint payments through the balancing mechanism in 2011 are detailed in the following table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| RWE | 124,133 |
| Scottish Power | 3,023,694 |
| Fred Olsen Renewables | 1,277,521 |
| Airtricity | 84,796 |
| Vattenhall | 56,633 |
| npower | 2,735,529 |
| Scottish and Southern Energy | 2,071,790 |
| Falck Renewables | 2,792,947 |

All of the above companies receiving constraint payments through the balancing mechanism are incorporated in the UK.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average length of time was for an onshore wind farm to generate sufficient low carbon energy to offset the emissions arising from its manufacture, installation and operation. [89490]

**Charles Hendry:** Emissions paybacks for wind turbines in the UK will vary according to factors such as the location of the turbine and the fossil fuel energy sources displaced, but DECC estimates suggest that a representative emissions payback time for an on-shore wind turbine would be about seven months.

### Wind Power: Safety

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to review safety standards in respect of blade dislocation in the wind turbine industry. [89509]

**Charles Hendry:** Wind generators, in the same way as all other industries, are covered by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA) which requires them as duty holders to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of their employees and any members of the public who may be affected by their activities.

Duty-holders are responsible for assessing and controlling the risks from their undertaking—and it is for the sector to prepare industry standards. For example, RenewablesUK has published wind turbine safety rules and guidance, details of which can be seen at:

http://www.bwea.com/safety/index.html

There are also well-established British and European standards covering product safety.

The HSE performs appropriate regulatory checks on the operation and maintenance of wind turbines and also commissions research as needed. An HSE-commissioned report on risk assessment in the vicinity of wind turbines will be published shortly, and we will consider the contents carefully once published.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Leader of the House how much was paid to officials in his office in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89708]

**Sir George Young:** The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude).

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the contribution of the entertainment industry to the economy; and if he will make a statement. [88879]

**Mr Vaizey:** The latest "Creative Industries Economic Estimates" bulletin was released in December 2011, in which the contribution to the economy of the Creative Industries is estimated—covering gross value added (GVA), employment, exports in services and number of businesses. These estimates are compiled for the Creative Industries as a whole and for the 13 sub-sectors as defined by the 2001 Creative Industries mapping document. Several of these sectors could be defined as entertainment industries, for example the "Music and Visual and Performing Arts" sector, which includes performing arts, support activities to performing arts, artistic creation and the operation of arts facilities.

The Creative Industries as a whole were estimated to contribute £36.3 billion, or 2.9%, to the UK's GVA in 2009. The "Music and Visual and Performing Arts" sector accounted for GVA of £4.1 billion, or 0.3% of the UK total.

The full Creative Industries economic estimates statistical release is available on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8682.aspx

### Broadband

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps are being taken by his Department to identify areas *(a)* without broadband and *(b)* where broadband speeds are below 1Mbps; and what steps are being taken to ensure that such areas either gain access to broadband or benefit from increased speed. [89340]

**Mr Vaizey:** Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) undertook a comprehensive modelling exercise to estimate the performance of all exchange lines in 2010 and has continued to update the data as new information becomes available. The Government have committed £530 million to help stimulate private investment in those locations where the commercial investment case is weak; the ambition is to provide superfast broadband to at least 90% of premises in the UK and to provide universal access to standard broadband with a speed of at least 2 Mbps.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the telecommunications industry has been consulted on the transfer of responsibilities for broadband to his Department. [89343]

**Mr Vaizey:** Since his appointment, broadband has always been part of the Secretary of State's portfolio, with officials reporting directly to him or myself, as Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, even when based in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Government's Digital Inclusion Champion on the timetable for the provision of universal broadband. [89344]

**Mr Vaizey:** I have met Martha Lane Fox—the Government's Digital Inclusion Champion—a number of times to discuss a wide variety of digital issues, including the rollout of superfast broadband.

### Broadband: Business

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to ensure that small businesses in remote areas gain access to high-speed broadband. [89341]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government have committed £530 million to help stimulate private investment in those locations where the commercial investment case is weak, with the ambition to provide superfast broadband to at least 90% of premises in the UK and to provide universal access to standard broadband with a speed of at least 2 Mbps.

### Broadband: EU Countries

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* representatives from the telecommunications industry and *(b)* Governments from other European countries on broadband provision; and what comparative assessment he has made of such provision with that available in the UK. [89342]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has regular discussions with representatives from the telecommunications industry, and I regularly speak with my counterparts in other European member states and the Commission on ICT issues, including broadband. This Government are committed to ensuring the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015 and we believe we are on target to achieve that. Ofcom published proposals for the Best in Europe Scorecard which will assess this in its International Communications Market Report in December 2011. In addition, the European Commission is due to publish a broadband international comparisons paper shortly.

### Charles Dickens

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. [90221]

**Mr Vaizey:** Events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens are publicised at:

http://www.dickens2012.org/section/exhibitions?page=4

This Department's arm's length bodies, the British Library and the National Portrait Gallery, will be holding exhibitions as part of those celebrations.

### English Heritage: Finance

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the amount English Heritage has spent on market researchers in each of the last five years. [90013]

**John Penrose:** This Department does not hold information on English Heritage's spending on market researchers in the last five years.

### Get Set Network

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* Northern Ireland, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales have signed up to the London 2012 Get Set Network. [89962]

**Hugh Robertson:** The following number of schools have signed up to the London 2012 Get Set Network.

| *Nation* | *Number of schools* |
|---|---:|
| England | 14,072 |
| Northern Ireland | 230 |
| Scotland | 1,043 |
| Wales | 573 |

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 November 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr J Allnutt, transferred from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. [90267]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** I responded to the letter of 15 November 2011 from the right hon. Member on 5 January 2012, which was e-mailed directly to his parliamentary office.

I will arrange for another copy of this letter to be e-mailed to the right hon. Member.

### Mobile Phones: Aerials

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has conducted a value for money assessment on the proposed use of public funding to improve mobile phone coverage compared to funding mobile masts in areas which will not be covered by the release of 800 MHz spectrum. [87436]

**Mr Vaizey:** The primary purpose of the £150 million is to fill in mobile voice not spots, but where possible we will look to support the deployment of additional mobile services including 4G when this is being deployed in the UK. Work is under way to determine where the investment should be made and will take into account any decisions made by Ofcom on coverage conditions attached to the 800 MHz licences.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Home Office, *(b)* the Metropolitan Police, *(c)* Transport for London and *(d)* local authorities on integrating the technological and human resources available for security at the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [90410]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Department meets regularly with the Home Office, the Metropolitan Police Service, Transport for London, the Greater London Authority, local authorities in London and elsewhere, and other relevant organisations, to discuss security planning for London 2012. The Home Office is the lead Government Department for Olympic and Paralympic security, although integration of planning and resources on security, as it is for other core activities, is a collective effort across a large number of delivery organisations.

We are working closely with the Home Office, the Metropolitan Police Service and others to ensure that resource planning, for example the demand for private security guards, is fully integrated with that of other key

Olympic and Paralympic delivery partners, especially the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games (LOCOG).

The integration of technological requirements and resources is fundamental to the planned system of command, co-ordination and communication (C3) that is needed to ensure that all significant parties interact sufficiently and are able to manage and co-ordinate information exchanges and the handling of any significant incidents in the run-up to, and during, the Olympic and Paralympic games. This is an ongoing and complex piece of work.

### Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of tickets for the London 2012 Olympics made available in the UK that were purchased by people resident in the UK. [89963]

**Hugh Robertson:** The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a private company operating independently of Government and is responsible for the ticketing arrangements for the London 2012 games.

The Olympic games and Paralympic games are global events. There will be 8.8 million tickets for the Olympic games, with 75% being made available by LOCOG through the UK application process. Already, over 3.5 million tickets have been purchased through this route by more than 850,000 people. More than 95% of successful applications through the UK process were from UK residents.

Current UK ticket sales are taking place now for the men's and women's Olympic football tournament, with further sales planned in April in all 26 Olympic sports, after venue seating plans are finalised.

### Olympic Games 2012: Tourism

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage tourists in London for the London 2012 Olympics to extend their stay and visit other parts of the UK. [89961]

**John Penrose:** With both the Olympic and Paralympic games and the diamond jubilee taking place in Britain this year, we are committed to seizing the unique opportunity to raise the profile of the UK as a place to visit.

VisitBritain's new international marketing campaign, with an investment of around £120 million, is targeting our biggest international markets and promoting all areas of the UK. It is already using the GREAT campaign on its website, and running advertisements featuring GREAT with its strategic and industry partners in key markets around the world. These adverts showcase what overseas visitors can discover in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

VisitBritain is also working closely with destination management organisations to help them develop 'attract brands' which are designed to encourage tourists from both home and abroad to make the most of the wealth of destinations all over the UK.

In addition, we are encouraging local tourism firms to sign up to a new 20.12% in 2012 offer scheme, which will mean holidaymakers booking a UK short break before the closing ceremony of the Paralympic games to be eligible for a special 20.12% deal with participating UK hospitality and tourism firms.

The Olympic flame will travel through every county in England, as well as each local authority in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. The relay presents an opportunity for the UK to showcase the best of each community as well as the tourism jewels within each of our regions. Pre-games training camps will also provide an opportunity to create further economic benefits all around the country, including inward investment, through the international attention that will follow. Agreements have been signed between National Olympic and Paralympic Committees and venues across the UK, available at:

http://www.london2012.com/documents/venue-documents/pre-games-training-camps-agreements.pdf

### Olympic Games 2012: Wi-Fi

**Claire Perry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to ensure that all free wi-fi access provided at public expense in London during the London 2012 Olympic Games is consistent with the family-friendly standards endorsed by the Independent Review of the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood. [88950]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Independent Review (Bailey) recommended device level settings work is underway on achieving this. This is the best way for parents to ensure that their children are not able to access inappropriate content wherever they are. There are no plans to provide free wi-fi access in London at public expense during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

### Sports: Equal Opportunities

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to promote gender equality in sports. [89320]

**Hugh Robertson:** Sport England will be investing £1 billion in the new youth and community sport strategy to secure a lasting legacy from London 2012. This will have a strong focus on providing the necessary opportunities and infrastructure for young people to develop a sporting habit for life. Around £450 million will go to sport's national governing bodies (NGBs) between 2013 and 2017 for their Whole Sport Plans, and Sport England is working closely with the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation, which provides specialist advice and support to governing bodies, as it develops inclusive criteria for NGB investment.

### Sports: Expenditure

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the total expenditure was in each parliamentary constituency by his Department on sport in 2011. [88826]

**Hugh Robertson:** Total expenditure by this Department on sport is not held at parliamentary constituency level. In 2011 UK Sport directly invested £70,460,543 in national governing bodies through its World Class Performance Programmes. The awards made directly by Sport England in the financial year 2011-12 were £97,715,605.

### Sports: Training

**Steve Rotheram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of voluntary sports coaches in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England and Wales. [90155]

**Hugh Robertson:** We are unable to provide this information by area; however, the programmes in place will benefit constituencies throughout the country.

We recognise the crucial role of the volunteer in increasing and maintaining participation in sport. Three in every four of the 600,000 qualified sports coaches in the UK are volunteers, usually giving up three to four hours of their time on a weekly basis.

The recruitment of volunteer sports coaches in England is a fundamental aspect of the work of the lead agency, Sports Coach UK, funded by DCMS through Sport England. Sports Coach UK has also been working with each of the 49 County Sports Partnerships (CSPs), including the Merseyside Sports Partnership, to ensure that the national recruitment strategies of the governing bodies are understood and implemented at a local level.

In addition, Sport Makers, as part of Sport England's Places, People, Play legacy programme, is encouraging 40,000 people to give up their time and take possibly their first step on the volunteer coach pathway by organising people to take part.

The new Youth Sport Strategy aims to increase consistently the number of young people developing sport as a habit for life. Sport England will work with schools, colleges and universities, as well as local CSPs, the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) for sport, local authorities and the voluntary sector—the people who know sport and young people best—to improve the sporting offer that we make available to them.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8761.aspx

For the first time, as part of the new Whole Sport Plans, NGBs will be tasked with delivery of increased participation for young people under 16. Each Whole Sport Plan will include ambitious objectives to ensure that sports deliver increased participation for both youth and adults alike.

### War Memorials: Repairs and Maintenance

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will create a British war memorial fund to provide finance for the maintenance of war memorials in the UK. [90291]

**John Penrose:** Traditionally, British war memorials are built and managed through private subscription rather than taxpayer funding. This has been true for the vast majority of our existing memorials, from Nelson's column in Trafalgar Square to the local village memorials and the new Bomber Command monument currently being built in Green Park. As such, we have no plans to create a British war memorial fund, but there are already programmes in place to support the preservation and repair of war memorials across the country.

English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation, in association with the War Memorials Trust, provide grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials in England. To date, over £757,000 has been offered under the scheme.

This Department's Memorial Grant scheme makes grants equivalent to the value added tax incurred by charities and faith groups in erecting, maintaining or repairing public memorials, including war memorials. Since the start of the scheme in 2005-06, over £1.8 million has been given out to support memorials across the UK.

In addition to Government support, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded more than £28.18 million over the last 17 years to over 66 projects across the UK that have specifically included the conservation of war memorials.

## JUSTICE

### Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what methods are used by his Department to measure the effects of its decisions on the subjective well-being of children. [90158]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) considers equality issues in exercising its functions, to comply with equality legislation and to ensure it understands how its activities will impact upon different people. It provides information about this consideration in various ways, including by undertaking equality impact assessments (EIAs). The protected equalities characteristics include age and therefore impacts on children will be considered.

There are a variety of evidence methods used to assess impacts, including consultations, surveys and other research approaches. Evidence may not necessarily be available to assess impacts of specific policies on subjective well being, though where it is this will be taken into consideration.

### Community Legal Service

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of the amounts falling due to the Community Legal Service under the Statutory Charge within *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 relate to costs recoverable for private family law matters; [89586]

(2) what proportion of the value of civil representation for financial provision on divorce cases completed in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 was subject to the Statutory Charge. [89637]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is able to determine the total amount of Statutory Charge levied each year and to provide a breakdown of this by category of law. The amounts levied for private family law matters as a proportion of the total amounts levied were 92% in 2008-09; 91% in 2009-10 and 90% in 2010-11. Within the category of law called financial provision, funding is available for the sub-category financial provision resulting from divorce. However, the proportion of the value of these cases subject to the statutory charge is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Coroners: Witnesses

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department can take to ensure that foreign witnesses can be called upon to give evidence at inquests in the UK concerning deaths which occur abroad. [90149]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for coroner law and policy but not operational responsibility, which rests with individual local authorities. Therefore, it cannot intervene in operational matters such as commissioning statements from witnesses overseas. I am, however, aware of the difficulties faced by coroners investigating deaths abroad who cannot take advantage of Mutual Legal Assistance arrangements as they are not part of the UK criminal justice system. Nevertheless, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does liaise between coroners in England and Wales and overseas countries to facilitate co-operation, but neither the FCO nor coroners can compel overseas witnesses to give evidence at an inquest.

### Courts: Unpaid Fines

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much of the sum imposed in court fines was unpaid at the end of each month since May 2010. [89729]

**Mr Djanogly:** Information on how much was outstanding for financial penalties at the end of each month is set out in the following table. Financial penalties include fines, costs, victim surcharge, compensation, unpaid fixed penalties and penalty notices for disorder which have been transferred to HMCTS for enforcement.

| *Date* | *Outstanding balance (£)* |
|---|---|
| *2010* | |
| May | 597,407,373.91 |
| June | 597,926,217.01 |
| July | 603,218,336.26 |
| August | 601,379,175.19 |
| September | 605,343,857.00 |
| October | 608,038,536.21 |
| November | 609,467,452.69 |
| December | 607,827,570.25 |
| *2011* | |
| January | 608,938,162,50 |
| February | 609,172,527.51 |
| March | 609,559,293.80 |
| April | 608,300,210.78 |
| May | 609,516,265.52 |
| June | 610,873,978.86 |
| July | 608,575,858.68 |
| August | 608,910,827.30 |
| September | 609,334,157.72 |

Over the last few years HMCTS has worked on implementing and embedding the principles set out in the Criminal Compliance and Enforcement Services Blueprint to achieve a higher degree of first time compliance. All regions have been focusing on directing resources to 'up front' compliance actions such as: increased use of telephone and text message chasing; increased use of intelligence tracing tools; and increased use of sanctions such as deductions from benefits and attachment of earnings. As a result HMCTS has stopped the increase in the outstanding balance.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many awards the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority made of *(a)* up to £5,000, *(b)* £5,001 to £10,000, *(c)* £10,001 to £15,000, *(d)* £15,001 to £20,000, *(e)* £20,001 to 25,000, *(f)* 25,001 to £30,000, *(g)* £30,001 to £35,000, *(h)* £35,001 to £40,000, *(i)* £40,001 to 45,000, *(j)* 45,001 to £50,000, *(k)* £50,001 to £55,000, *(l)* £55,001 to £60,000, *(m)* £60,001 to 65,000, *(n)* 65,001 to £70,000, *(o)* £70,001 to £75,000, *(p)* £75,001 to £80,000, *(q)* £80,001 to 85,000, *(r)* 85,001 to £90,000, *(s)* £90,001 to £95,000, *(t)* £95,001 to £100,000, *(u)* £100,001 to £125,000, *(v)* £125,001 to £150,000, *(w)* £150,001 to £175,000, *(x)* £175,001 to £200,000, *(y)* £200,001 to £250,000, *(z)* £250,001 to £300,000, *(aa)* £300,001 to £350,000, *(ab)* £350,001 to £400,000, *(ac)* £400,001 to £450,000 and *(ad)* £450,001 to £500,000 in 2010. [90448]

**Mr Djanogly:** Figures covering cases resolved in the 2010 financial year are shown in the following table:

| *Band* | *Number of awards* |
|---|---|
| Up to £5,000 | 25,204 |
| £5,001 to £10,000 | 3,034 |
| £10,001 to £15,000 | 1,601 |
| £15,001 to £20,000 | 716 |
| £20,001 to £25,000 | 511 |
| £25,001 to £30,000 | 155 |
| £30,001 to £35,000 | 90 |
| £35,001 to £40,000 | 51 |
| £40,001 to £45,000 | 36 |
| £45,001 to £50,000 | 32 |
| £50,001 to £55,000 | 24 |
| £55,001 to £60,000 | 21 |
| £60,001 to £65,000 | 24 |
| £65,001 to £70,000 | 12 |
| £70,001 to £75,000 | 17 |
| £75,001 to £80,000 | 15 |
| £80,001 to £85,000 | 13 |
| £85,001 to £90,000 | 7 |
| £90,001 to £95,000 | 8 |
| £95,001 to £100,000 | 10 |
| £100,001 to £125,000 | 40 |
| £125,001 to £150,000 | 43 |
| £150,001 to £175,000 | 21 |
| £175,001 to £200,000 | 16 |
| £200,001 to £250,000 | 44 |
| £250,001 to £300,000 | 21 |
| £300,001 to £350,000 | 11 |
| £350,001 to £400,000 | 10 |
| £400,001 to £450,000 | 5 |
| £450,001 to £500,000 | 39 |

## Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88736]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice, including its public bodies, has a well established programme of apprenticeships for its staff. The Ministry will continue to use apprenticeships to raise the skills and capability of existing staff by offering opportunities to develop transferable skills and support future recruitment.

The Ministry has devolved responsibilities for learning and training budgets to each of its public bodies. The allocation of funding for internal apprenticeships is the responsibility of each individual public body and it is not held centrally. As the Ministry is responsible for 52 public bodies, to obtain this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

The learning and development budgets for *(c)* April 2012 to March 2013 have not yet been finalised. The Ministry will continue to work with Skills for Justice, which is our skills sector council, our other provider networks and Civil Service Learning to develop our ongoing apprenticeship programmes.

The Ministry also works with providers that draw on Skills Agency funding to allocate free apprenticeship training places. This provision is also available to all public bodies.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89141]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice has a well established programme of sponsoring apprenticeships for its staff. The Ministry will continue to use apprenticeships to raise the capability of its existing staff by offering opportunities to develop transferable skills and support future recruitment.

The Ministry does not set aside a specific funding allocation for internal apprenticeships. Instead, as apprenticeships are part of the Ministry's overall approach to learning and development, the funding used to sponsor internal apprenticeships is drawn from the overall training and development budgets. Over the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, the Ministry has spent a total of £61,312 on apprenticeship training. For the period 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011 the amount of monies spent was £41,495 with an anticipated spend of £55,495 by 31 March 2012. The potential allocations of monies for 2012-13 is not yet known.

The recent decline in funding is the inevitable result of the reductions being made in the total number of employees and the lower levels of recruitment of new employees, as a result of the public spending settlement. This does not involve any reduction in the priority that we give to apprenticeship in the medium and longer term when recruitment will return to a more steady and sustained level.

The Ministry will continue to work with Skills for Justice, our skills sector council, our provider networks and Civil Service Learning to develop our ongoing apprenticeship programmes. The Ministry also works with providers that draw on Skills Agency funding to provide the Department with free places where possible.

## Aviation: Official Travel

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on flights for its officials since May 2010. [89645]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Department does not separately record expenditure on flights for its officials. To provide a figure for the amount spent on flights for officials alone would incur disproportionate cost.

## Consultants

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on external consultants in each month since May 2010. [89643]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The Ministry of Justice has spent the following on external consultants since May 2010:

| | *Spend (net) (£)* |
|---|---|
| May 2010 | 1,888,433 |
| June 2010 | 3,523,312 |
| July 2010 | 2,421,828 |
| August 2010 | 2,393,316 |
| September 2010 | 2,111,881 |
| October 2010 | 3,754,105 |
| November 2010 | 1,533,988 |
| December 2010 | 1,966,613 |
| January 2011 | 1,746,524 |
| February 2011 | 1,647,381 |
| March 2011 | 2,399,586 |
| April 2011 | 3,757,813 |
| May 2011 | 1,283,862 |
| June 2011 | 2,755,656 |
| July 2011 | 2,929,399 |
| August 2011 | 2,197,902 |
| September 2011 | 2,362,592 |
| October 2011 | 1,435,206 |
| November 2011 | 1,197,102 |

*Note:*
Data are only available up until November 2011.

## Freedom of Information

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many freedom of information requests his Department has received in each month of the last five years. [89730]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** The table provides a monthly breakdown of the number of requests received by the Ministry of Justice and associated bodies not listed as separate public authorities under schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act'). Under the Official Statistics code of practice, we cannot release statistics for a time period prior to their appearance in a regular statistical report. Statistics for October to December

2011 are therefore not included, but they will be collated and published on the Ministry of Justice website in due course.

These figures have been obtained from a central database. These figures include only first requests—appeals against responses provided to requests are not counted.

| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 68 | 62 | 262 | 248 | 287 |
| February | 74 | 50 | 240 | 253 | 275 |
| March | 63 | 41 | 273 | 328 | 340 |
| April | 42 | 88 | 233 | 260 | 265 |
| May | 66 | 68 | 208 | 268 | 290 |
| June | 40 | 92 | 241 | 309 | 298 |
| July | 55 | 105 | 238 | 299 | 274 |
| August | 67 | 107 | 222 | 324 | 273 |
| September | 60 | 135 | 296 | 275 | 322 |
| October | 51 | 166 | 252 | 240 | — |
| November | 55 | 241 | 300 | 292 | — |
| December | 43 | 222 | 205 | 220 | — |
| Total | 684 | 1,377 | 2,970 | 3,316 | 2,624 |

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department claimed an exemption to not provide requested information in each month since May 2010. [89731]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** A breakdown of the information requested is provided in the table. Under the Official Statistics Code of Practice, we cannot release statistics for a time period prior to their appearance in a regular statistical report. Statistics for October to December 2011 are therefore not included, but they will be collated and published on the Ministry of Justice website in due course.

The figures provided include all requests in which a permitted exemption under the Freedom of Information Act was applied, with the exception of Section 21. Section 21 is applied when the information requested is accessible by other means, for example on the Ministry of Justice website.

| | *2010* | *2011* |
|---|---|---|
| January | — | 33 |
| February | — | 131 |
| March | — | 144 |
| April | — | 108 |
| May | 103 | 120 |
| June | 106 | 108 |
| July | 128 | 112 |
| August | 137 | 127 |
| September | 118 | 130 |
| October | 137 | — |
| November | 106 | — |
| December | 115 | — |
| Total | 950 | 1,013 |

### Legal Aid Scheme: Families

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what net savings in relation to family legal aid his Department estimates will be achieved from *(a)* the legal aid budget, *(b)* his Department's budget and *(c)* total Government expenditure in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and what figures his Department is using as the baseline comparison. [89640]

**Mr Djanogly:** The impact assessments published alongside the Government's response to consultation represent the best estimates of the potential benefits arising from the reform and include an estimate as to the savings relating to family legal aid. The impact assessments estimate the total legal aid reform savings for each year. However, this is not split into civil and family savings.

The impact assessments use a 2009-10 baseline to estimate the legal aid reform savings.

The legal aid reform impact assessments can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform.htm

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate the Legal Services Commission has made of the sum to be recovered for private family cases completed in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 through (i) contributions from clients, (ii) costs recoverable and (iii) recoveries from the Statutory Charge; [89638]

(2) what proportion of money estimated to be due to the Community Legal Service under the Statutory Charge was collected in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [89639]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not forecast costs recoverable, including contributions and amounts owed under the Statutory Charge by category of law.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of reductions in his Department's expenditure on family legal aid is projected to relate to costs paid to solicitors delivering family services in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15. [89641]

**Mr Djanogly:** Savings calculations were made on a 'steady state' basis and as such it is not possible to provide an annualised profile. However, based on steady state calculations, we estimate that 81% of savings attributable to family legal aid relate to costs paid to solicitors.

### Legal Aid Scheme: Personal Injury

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in the secure estate have made personal injury claims with funding from legal aid in each of the last 10 years. [89634]

**Mr Djanogly:** The vast majority of personal injury cases are excluded from the legal aid scheme, although funding may be provided if the matter has significant wider public interest. However, it is not recorded whether an applicant for legal aid is a prisoner.

### Legal Aid Scheme: Prisoners

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on future reduction or elimination of legal aid for prisoners challenging their conviction or sentence; and if he will make a statement. [89635]

**Mr Djanogly:** We have no plans to change legal aid eligibility for prisoners making an appeal against their conviction or sentence. An appeal must be made within 21 days of conviction or sentence by a magistrates court. Appeals can only be made out of time with the permission of the Crown court. An appeal against conviction or sentence by the Crown court must ordinarily be made within 28 days. All appeals against conviction or sentence by the Crown court may only be made with the permission of the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). Subject to financial eligibility criteria, advice and assistance may be available for an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

### Legal Aid Scheme: Social Security Benefits

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the extent of any additional costs to *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* other Government Departments as a result of welfare benefits being removed from the scope of legal aid. [89322]

**Mr Djanogly:** The impact assessments published alongside the Government's response to consultation represent the best estimates of the potential costs and benefits attached to the reforms. Ultimately, costs and benefits arising, including those to other Government Departments, will be determined by behavioural responses to the changes, which cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty. It should be noted that the Department of Health has confirmed that in the context of the reforms as a whole, which include both the Lord Justice Jackson reforms and legal aid, costs to the NHS are expected to reduce and not increase. We will be conducting a post-implementation review of the reforms three to five years after Royal Assent, and this will consider the question of systemic impacts of the reforms.

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on legal aid *(a)* advice and *(b)* representation for appeals to adjust welfare benefit determinations made to the upper tribunals and higher courts in each of the last five years. [89629]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record spending to the level of detail requested and is unable to identify spending on all appeals to adjust welfare benefit determinations at the upper tribunal and higher courts.

### Legal Services Commission

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the total expenditure on legal aid was taken up by expenditure on the Legal Services Commission's administrative functions in each of the last five years. [89727]

**Mr Djanogly:** The following table shows spending on legal aid and the LSC's administration costs for each of the past five years.

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Legal aid spend (£ million) | 1,980 | 2,023 | 2,101 | 2,149 | 2,134 |
| LSC administration spend (£ million) | 114 | 133 | 123 | 129 | 128 |
| Combined spending on legal aid and LSC administration (£ million) | 2,095 | 2,156 | 2,223 | 2,278 | 2,262 |
| LSC admin spend as a proportion of combined legal aid spending and spending on LSC administration (percentage) | 5.5 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.7 |

### Offenders: Deportation

**Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners serving a determinate sentence were deported under the Early Removal Scheme in 2010-11. [89959]

**Damian Green:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Home Department.

In 2010-11, 1,789 foreign national offenders were deported under the Early Removal scheme.

### Offenders: Rehabilitation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department is providing any form of underwriting for the social impact bond pilot at HMP Peterborough. [90438]

**Mr Blunt:** The Department has not underwritten the social impact bond pilot at Peterborough prison. Investors managed by Social Finance bear the implementation and operational costs of the scheme and will receive a return on their investment from the Department if the bond achieves the required reduction in reoffending. Otherwise, no payment will be made.

### Post-Mortems

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what targets his Department has set for the time taken to complete histological and toxicological tests carried out as part of the preparation of a post-mortem report. [89782]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for coroner law and policy only. It does not have operational responsibility for coroners and therefore does not have any role in setting targets for the completion of histological or toxicological reports requested in conjunction with coroners' investigations. Operational responsibility for coroners rests with individual local authorities.

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many unexpected deaths *(a)* were reported to coroners, *(b)* were subject to post-mortem reports and *(c)* required (i) histological and (ii) toxicological tests to be carried out as part of the preparation of the post mortem report in (A) England, (B) Wales, (C) Scotland and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [89780]

(2) what the *(a)* shortest, *(b)* longest and *(c)* average time taken was to carry out (i) histological and (ii) toxicological tests prior to the completion of post-mortem reports into unexpected deaths in (A) England, (B) Wales, (C) Scotland and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [89781]

**Mr Djanogly:** The number of deaths reported to coroners in England and Wales in the last five years for which figures are available, and the number of such cases where a post-mortem examination was undertaken, is set out in the following table.

*Deaths reported to coroners, and post-mortem examinations, 2006-10*

| | *England* | | *Wales* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Deaths reported during year* | *Post-mortem examinations undertaken* | *Deaths reported during year* | *Post-mortem examinations undertaken* |
| 2006 | 215,564 | 103,290 | 14,443 | 6,934 |
| 2007 | 219,668 | 103,423 | 14,790 | 6,937 |
| 2008 | 219,751 | 101,400 | 15,033 | 6,960 |
| 2009 | 215,385 | 98,587 | 14,498 | 6,767 |
| 2010 | 216,243 | 95,402 | 14,352 | 6,541 |

The Ministry started collecting information on the numbers of post-mortem examinations that included either histology or toxicology in 2010. In that year, 14,137 post-mortems ordered by coroners in England included histological tests, and in Wales there were 1,540; toxicological tests were performed in 9,499 post-mortems in England, and 845 in Wales. These figures exclude three coroner districts in England that were not able to provide these data. Statistics are not available for earlier years.

The Ministry does not collect information on the timeliness of post-mortem examinations, or in relation to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

## Prison Accommodation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the occupancy rate was for each prison and young offenders establishment on 1 January 2012; [90435]

(2) what the *(a)* certified normal accommodation and *(b)* operational capacity was of each prison and young offenders establishment on 1 January 2012; [90436]

(3) how many prisoners were accommodated in multiple-occupancy cells in each prison and young offenders' establishment on 1 January 2012. [90437]

**Mr Blunt:** The occupancy rate of each prison and young offenders institution, as defined by the percentage of population, to in-use certified normal accommodation is published for the last working Friday in December 2011 and is set out in the table. This information is published monthly on the MOJ website via the attached link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/prison-population-figures/index.htm

The operational capacity and certified normal accommodation of each prison and young offenders institution for the last working Friday in December 2011 is also set out in this table.

Information is held centrally on cell occupancy, but no data are available for around 2,000 prisoners, and it is therefore not possible to provide the number of prisoners accommodated in multiple-occupancy cells at an establishment level. It is however possible from the data available to determine the approximate number of prisoners who are sharing accommodation at a national level. As at 30 December 2011, around 35,000 prisoners (40% of the prison population) were sharing accommodation with other prisoners, be it crowded (eg two prisoners held in a cell designed for one) or not (eg two prisoners held in a cell designed for two).

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing

## Prison Officers Association: Trade Unions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has made an assessment of the feasibility of the restoration of full trade union rights to the Prison Officers' Association; [89930]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the restoration of full trade union rights to the Prison Officers' Association. [89931]

**Mr Blunt:** Prison officers are currently restricted from taking industrial action under section 127 of the Criminal Justice Act 1994 for reasons of safety. These restrictions were suspended in 2005, when the Prison Officers' Association signed a no-strike agreement with the Prison Service, which they later breached by taking national strike action on 29 August 2007. The previous Government subsequently reinstated the legal restrictions on prison officers taking industrial action.

The potentially serious consequences of industrial action by prison officers necessitate safeguards against this course of action. Alternatives have been assessed but the Government are not considering lifting these restrictions. In lieu of their ability to strike, compensatory mechanisms for prison officers are in place, including local and national disputes procedures, with recourse to independent arbitration if required, and the Prison Service Pay Review Body, which recommends the levels of pay and allowances of prison officers.

The Prison Officers' Association has consistently made representations on the restoration of full trade union rights. This is not being considered, for the reasons given above.

## Prisoners' Release

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the merits of not releasing prisoners on a Friday in order to ensure availability of support. [90187]

**Mr Blunt:** Prisoners are released on a Friday, where the release date falls on a weekend/bank holiday, as set down in legislation. There are no plans to amend that legislation.

When a court imposes a custodial sentence, prison staff calculate the prisoner's release date according to the number of days to be served under the legislation relevant to the sentence. Prisoners whose statutory release dates fall on weekends or bank holidays are released on the preceding working day under Section 23(3) of the Criminal Justice Act 1961. To detain anyone beyond the weekend would mean a prisoner was being detained longer than is statutorily required and therefore unlawfully. To bring forward the release would mean the prisoner would not have served the custodial period required by law. Therefore, it is not possible to release a prisoner on any other day as it would be unlawful to do so.

### Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were removed from England and Wales in 2011; and to which countries they were removed. [89855]

**Damian Green:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Home Department.

In 2010-11, 5,339 foreign national offenders were removed or deported from the UK. It is our policy not to disclose the countries to which we remove or deport foreign national offenders as this could damage diplomatic relations and hence the opportunity to remove offenders.

### Prisoners: Jamaica

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 464-5, on prisoners: foreign nationals, what progress has been made in negotiating prisoner transfer agreements with *(a)* Jamaica and *(b)* Nigeria. [89859]

**Mr Blunt:** The UK signed a voluntary prisoner transfer agreement (PTA) with Jamaica in 2007. However, the Jamaican Government need to introduce enabling legislation to ratify this agreement. Discussions about the progress of this legislation and the implementation of the agreement are ongoing and will be raised by Ministers attending the UK-Caribbean ministerial forum later this month.

Voluntary transfer of prisoners between the UK and Nigeria has been possible since 2009, when Nigeria became a participant of the Commonwealth scheme for the transfer of convicted offenders. During the Prime Minister's visit to Nigeria in July 2011, he and President Goodluck Jonathan pledged that they would work to provide a compulsory mechanism for nationals from both countries to be transferred home to serve out their sentences. The Bill to amend the relevant domestic Nigerian legislation to enable the negotiation of a compulsory PTA is now awaiting its final reading in the Nigerian Senate.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* Centrepoint, *(b)* Crisis, *(c)* Skill Force and *(d)* Shelter in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90399]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice provided funding of £620,698 to Shelter during 2010-11. According to our records, in the current financial year Shelter has received £657,824 in funding from this Department.

The Ministry of Justice did not provide funding to Centrepoint, Crisis and Skill Force in neither 2010-11 nor 2011-12.

### Young Offenders: Suicide

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the length of time following transfer until the date of death was of those people transferred from the youth secure estate to the adult secure estate who committed suicide in the last three years; [90206]

(2) how many people aged between 18 and 21 years who committed suicide in the secure adult estate had been transferred from the youth secure estate in each of the last three years; [90383]

(3) how many prisoners of each age between 18 and 21 committed suicide in the adult secure estate in each of the last three years. [90384]

**Mr Blunt:** There has been one apparent self-inflicted death in the adult secure estate of a prisoner aged 20 years following transfer from the youth secure estate in the last three years (2008 to 2010). This death occurred in 2009, 98 days after the transfer to the adult secure estate.

In the last three years there have been three apparent self-inflicted deaths in the adult secure estate of prisoners aged between 18 and 21; one at age 21 and two at age 20.

## TREASURY

### Air Passenger Duty

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with their counterparts in other Commonwealth member states on the effects of air passenger duty. [89850]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** As part of the consultation process, Ministers and officials met with representatives of several Commonwealth member countries to hear their views directly. Annex D of the Government's response to the consultation on reform of air passenger duty, published on 6 December 2011, lists the countries that contributed to the consultation.

### Banks: Pay

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place to record *(a)* chief executive pay and *(b)* bonuses paid by banks to staff. [89462]

**Mr Hoban:** Quoted companies must disclose the pay of all directors, including chief executive officers, in directors' remuneration reports required under section 420 of the Companies Act 2006. Aggregate information on variable remuneration, including bonuses, paid to senior management and members of staff whose actions have a material impact on the risk profile of the bank, must be disclosed by banks under disclosure rules made by the Financial Services Authority in the prudential sourcebook for banks, building societies and investment firms.

### Capital Transfer Tax

**John Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in capital transfer tax in each year between 1982 and 1986. [89840]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I provided on 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 390W.

### Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what methods are used by his Department to measure the effects of its decisions on the subjective well-being of children; [90160]

(2) what research his Department has commissioned to measure the subjective well-being of children. [90153]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is in the process of developing measures of subjective well-being as part of the national well-being programme. The Treasury has not commissioned any separate research on the subjective well-being of children.

The ONS is working with a range of stakeholders, including Government Departments and the third sector, to develop well-being measures for children and young people. This work aims to come up with questions and identify survey vehicles to collect information that is comparable across UK countries and other developed countries to get an accurate picture of children's well-being.

This will help provide Government Departments, including HM Treasury, with better information on children's subjective well-being for use when developing policy.

The ONS is currently running a consultation on the proposed measures of national well-being. This includes all subgroups in the population, including children and young people For more information please visit:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/consultations/open-consultations/measuring-national-well-being/index.html

Further information on the ONS work on children and young people's well-being can also be found on:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/well-being/wellbeing-knowledge-bank/understanding-wellbeing/understanding-well-being.html

### Debts

**Eric Ollerenshaw:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average level of personal *(a)* debt and *(b)* savings was in each region of the UK in each of the last 10 years. [89516]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The Government do not collect data on the average level of personal debt and savings by UK region.

### Departmental Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89380]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** HM Treasury employs two speechwriters, one at pay range D and one at pay range E.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89379]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** HM Treasury's non-departmental public bodies receive the same guidance on the employment of interns as HM Treasury itself. HM Treasury does not have its own scheme for internships but participates in schemes run centrally by the Cabinet Office. Any individuals enquiring about internships are directed to the schemes in operation at the time which include Summer Diversity Internships, Government Economics Services Internships and websites of Departments offering other internship programmes.

### EU Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which EU *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89697]

**Mr Hoban:** The obligation to transpose EU law arises as a result of the adoption of measures under the Union treaties. Under the EU treaty, it is above all the adoption of directives which gives rise to the obligation to transpose. Directives are legally binding instruments but they are addressed to the member states. They need to be given effect in national law both as to their substantive provisions and also as to any additional measures, such as the creation of sanctions, which may be necessary in order to ensure the proper application and enforcement of the provisions of the directive.

Regulations have general application: they are binding in their entirety and directly applicable in all member states. Therefore, it is generally unnecessary to transpose the provisions of EU regulations into domestic law. National provisions that are inconsistent with a regulation and existing domestic legislation that wrongly duplicates the provisions of an EU regulation should, however, be repealed.

In relation to part *(c)*, no other legislation requiring transposition affects HM Treasury.

It is Government policy to conduct impact assessments of EU directives and regulatory proposals, which assess the cost and benefit of such measures. The Government do not aggregate these data.

### Excise Duties: Fuels

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will have regard to the effect of high fuel duties on low-income working families in his preparatory work for the next Budget. [90361]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines and considers a range of factors including the effects on low-income families of the Government's fiscal plans. The Autumn Statement, 29 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 799-810, announced that the 3.02ppl fuel duty increase that was due to take effect on 1 January 2012 will be deferred to 1 August 2012, and the inflation increase that was planned for 1 August 2012, currently expected to be worth 1.92ppl, will be cancelled. This will provide support for motorists and businesses.

### Financial Services: Standards

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs is taking to progress the development of the ISO20022 payment submission format; and if he will make a statement. [89650]

**Mr Gauke:** The development of payment submission formats is a matter for the banking industry. HMRC is working with the industry to identify the most suitable format for joint submission of payment instructions and PAYE data.

### PAYE

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect of implementation of the proposed interim solution for the PAYE Real-Time Information project on the timetable for completion of the strategic solution; and if he will make a statement. [89647]

**Mr Gauke:** The interim solution for Real-Time Information was developed in response to concerns from employers and the payroll industry about the timescales for implementing a Bacs filing channel and a new payment standard. This solution ensures that Real-Time Information can be implemented in time for the start of universal credit, which will use the information to adjust payments to claimants.

HMRC is working with the payroll and banking industries to develop the detailed requirements of the strategic solution, involving the Bacs channel, and determine the appropriate timetable for implementation.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a target date for implementation of the strategic PAYE Real-Time Information solution has been agreed; and if he will make a statement. [89648]

**Mr Gauke:** A target date for the implementation of the strategic solution has not yet been set. HMRC currently envisages that the interim Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) channel will be retained until at least 2016-17. The internet channel will be retained for employers who do not pay their employees using Bacs.

### Stamp Duty Land Tax

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs are working on minimising the avoidance of stamp duty land tax. [90380]

**Mr Gauke:** In HM Treasury much of the work on the avoidance of SDLT is carried out alongside other areas of taxation. It is therefore not possible to come up with a meaningful quantification of the people involved.

Neither is it possible to estimate the number of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff involved in stamp duty land tax compliance activities as this work is largely carried out in HMRC's Large Business Service and Local Compliance offices in conjunction with compliance work on other taxes.

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 71W, on stamp duties, whether he is referring to Spotlight 6: Employer-Financed Retirement Benefits Scheme or Spotlight 10: Stamp Duty Land Tax avoidance; and, if he is referring to Spotlight 10, on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs has found property sale arrangements that have been artificially structured to avoid paying the correct amount of stamp duty land tax; how many were actively challenged; and what action was taken. [90381]

**Mr Gauke:** The earlier answer was intended to refer to Spotlight 10, published in June 2010. I apologise for the error.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is aware of a number of marketed stamp duty land tax (SDLT) avoidance schemes. HMRC considers that none of the schemes which it has analysed is effective in reducing the purchaser's liability to SDLT.

Wherever HMRC identifies that an avoidance scheme has (or may have been) used we issue a challenge. Where an SDLT return has been submitted and full disclosure of use of a scheme has been made, an inquiry is opened into the return. Where no return or disclosure has been made to HMRC a discovery assessment is issued.

HMRC does not publish detailed information which might prejudice the effective conduct of its compliance activities.

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 70-1W, on stamp duties, how many meetings have been held in his Department with the main subject of stamp duty land tax since May 2011. [90382]

**Mr Gauke:** The Treasury does not keep an official record of meetings of this type. However, the Treasury holds regular meetings on all areas of taxation, including stamp duty land tax.

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 70-1W, on stamp duties, what steps he takes to ensure that stamp duty land tax is paid by the purchaser when acquiring a property; and what further steps he plans to take. [90385]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Windsor (Adam Afriyie), on 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 388W.

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 70-1W, on stamp duties, whether it is appropriate to use the term avoidance in the context of *(a)* stamp duty and *(b)* stamp duty land tax. [90386]

**Mr Gauke:** The term avoidance is not strictly relevant to stamp duty for the reasons set out in the answer given by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich North (Miss Smith), on 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 408W.

Purchasers in a land transaction must comply with the requirements of stamp duty land tax (SDLT) legislation in order to register their title to the property at the land registry. Avoidance in this context refers to attempts to use elements of tax legislation in combination to produce a result which reduces the amount of SDLT due, contrary to the intentions of Parliament.

**David Mowat:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to reduce avoidance of stamp duty land tax on properties worth more than £1 million through offshore registration; and if he will make a statement. [89508]

**Mr Gauke:** It is not possible to avoid SDLT by registering title to UK land offshore. Such title must be registered at UK land registries. In most cases this requires a certificate confirming that stamp duty land tax (SDLT) requirements have been complied with.

Liability to SDLT is not limited to UK-resident purchasers. Where UK land is purchased by a company registered outside the UK, SDLT is payable in the usual way. If shares in the company subsequently change hands, there is no land transaction and SDLT does not apply.

## Tax Avoidance

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the extent of avoidance of tax through placing land in offshore trusts; and if he will make a statement. [89567]

**Mr Gauke:** No such estimate has been made.

The latest tax gap estimates were published in September 2011 in 'Measuring Tax Gaps 2011' on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/mtg-2011.pdf

## Taxation: Business

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many cases HM Revenue and Customs has initiated proceedings against a business in respect of disputes relating to the tax status of sub-contractors hired by that business in each of the last three years. [89651]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs does not maintain a central record of the numbers of proceedings before tax tribunals specific to employment status in the construction sector.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of each *(a)* set of regulations and *(b)* item of guidance issued by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor relating to the tax status of sub-contractors in the last 15 years. [89653]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC's guidance on status for contractors in the construction industry is included in factsheet CIS349. The factsheet, which is available from HMRC's website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/new-cis/cis349.pdf

replaced leaflet "IR148 Are your workers employed or self-employed?" which was originally introduced in October 1995.

I have asked HMRC to locate a copy of the leaflet and arrange for it to be placed with the factsheet in the Library, together with a copy of Regulation 4(5) SI 2005/2045, which is the only regulation specific to employment status in the construction industry. This regulation relates to status declarations that need to be made by contractors.

## Taxation: Tribunals

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has contested at the first-tier tribunal (tax) in each of the last three years; and in how many such cases *(a)* the Tribunal has ruled (i) in favour of and (ii) ruled against HMRC and *(b)* there was a different outcome. [89652]

**Mr Gauke:** The first-tier tax tribunal opened on 1 April 2009 and HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) has published figures for the first two years which show the numbers of tax cases disposed of were:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 5,600 |
| 2010-11 | 6,100 |

HMCTS does not collate or publish the outcomes of tax cases.

About 40% of the disposals were decided by the tribunal (the rest being resolved between the parties). HMRC has analysed around 80% of the hearings in 2010-11 (excluding cases inherited from previous tribunals) and published the results on its website. These show:

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| In favour of HMRC | 793 | 74 |
| Against HMRC | 225 | 21 |
| Other outcome | 56 | 5 |

## Unemployment: Young People

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will use public sector capital expenditure to reduce youth unemployment in Hartlepool; and if he will make a statement. [82462]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* On 25 November, the Government announced an ambitious programme for tackling youth unemployment. Starting in 2012, the Youth Contract will deliver:

an additional 250,000 work experience or sector-based work academy places for every unemployed 18-24 year old;

more Jobcentre Plus support for 18-24 year olds, including extra advisor time and a careers interview from the National Careers Service and weekly, rather than fortnightly, signing;

a total of 160,000 wage incentive places (at £2,275 each) to make it easier for employers to take on young people;

additional funding to support the growth of 16-24 apprenticeships, ensuring the funding for at least 40,000 incentive payments (at £1,500 each) for employers next year to raise demand for 16-24 apprenticeships; and

a new £50 million a year programme for those 16 and 17-year-olds not in employment, education or training to get them learning, on an apprenticeship or in a job with training.

The Government are also stimulating private sector investment through the Regional Growth Fund. In the north-east alone, the successful second round bids announced in October 2011 will generate an estimated 8,796 direct jobs and 18,800 indirect jobs.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Iran

15. **Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the Iranian nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [89819]

**Mr Hague:** I am gravely concerned about the Iranian nuclear programme. Iran continues to flout six UN Security Council resolutions requiring it to suspend uranium enrichment. It recently began operations at its uranium enrichment plant near Qom and has conducted significant military-related nuclear activities. Pressure will only increase until Iran is ready to respect its international obligations and negotiate.

### Persecution of Christians

17. **Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of persecution of Christians in North Africa and the Middle East. [89821]

**Alistair Burt:** Circumstances vary throughout the Middle East and North Africa, although religious minorities, including Christians, have clearly suffered oppression in countries such as Egypt, Iran and Iraq. The UK is deeply committed to freedom of religion and expression and urges authorities to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all individuals, regardless of religion or belief.

### Burma

18. **Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of bilateral relations with Burma; and if he will make a statement. [89822]

**Mr Hague:** When I visited Burma earlier this month the President and I agreed that we were entering a new chapter in our relationship. Last week's historic ceasefire and the release of a significant number of political prisoners are extremely promising. As I made clear, progress on these and the other issues I set out could result in a fundamental shift in our bilateral relations.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of his recent visit to Burma; and if he will make a statement. [88953]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), to the House on 16 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 28-29WS.

This visit was an opportunity for the UK to recognise the efforts made by the Government to implement reforms in Burma. The Foreign Secretary met the President, Foreign Minister and Speaker of the Lower House and set out very clearly the further steps we need to see before a more fundamental shift in our relationship could take place. These include:

the release of all political prisoners;

free and fair by-elections; and

humanitarian access to conflict areas alongside a clear process of reconciliation.

He also met Aung San Suu Kyi and opposition groups, as well as representatives from the ethnic minority communities, and assured them of the UK's continued support for their efforts to promote democracy and respect for human rights in Burma.

We are all pleased to hear that a significant number of political prisoners in Burma were released last week, including 88 Generation and ethnic leaders. I warmly welcome these releases, as well as the historic ceasefire agreement with the Karen, as further demonstrations of the Burmese Government's commitment to reform. I hope that these positive steps will contribute to greater democratic participation in the upcoming parliamentary by-elections.

The British Government will continue to follow developments in Burma closely. We will continue to support progress, while making clear, both directly and through the UN, our human rights concerns, especially in the areas affected by ethnic conflict.

### Tunisia

19. **Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government are giving to the development of democracy in Tunisia. [89823]

**Alistair Burt:** Through the Arab Partnership Initiative, the UK is providing British technical expertise on democratic institutions, helping to strengthen freedom of expression and supporting economic development. We are also supporting Tunisia's reform efforts through the EU Neighbourhood programme, the Deauville Partnership and through our contributions to the international financial institutions.

### Turks and Caicos Islands

20. **Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress he has made on the return of self-government in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [89824]

**Mr Bellingham:** In December 2010 the Minister of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Mr Duncan), and I set out eight milestones to be met before elections could be held. Significant recent progress includes: a new constitution and Crown land policy, recruitment of new senior public servants, and an ambitious programme of tax and public expenditure reform.

### Middle East Peace Process

21. **Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the status of the middle east peace process; and if he will make a statement. [89825]

**Mr Hague:** The only way to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is through direct negotiations between the parties. I welcome the efforts by Jordan to bring the parties together under the framework of the Quartet statement of 23 September. It is important for both sides to seize this opportunity and show the political leadership and courage needed to break the current impasse.

22. **Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the status of the middle east peace process; and if he will make a statement. [89826]

**Mr Hague:** The only way to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is through direct negotiations between the parties. I welcome the efforts by Jordan to bring the parties together under the framework of the Quartet statement of 23 September. It is important for both sides to seize this opportunity and show the political leadership and courage needed to break the current impasse.

### Diplomatic Network

23. **Esther McVey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of his Department's diplomatic network; and if he will make a statement. [89827]

**Mr Hague:** Our embassies and high commissions are the essential infrastructure of our country's influence overseas and of our economic recovery. We are making substantial progress with our plans to expand and use Britain's diplomatic network to the very full and expect to open embassies in Kyrgyzstan and El Salvador this year.

### The Commonwealth

24. **Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the UK's role in reinvigorating the Commonwealth; and if he will make a statement. [89828]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2011 agreed some of the most significant reforms in the organisation's history. The Government will continue to work with our Commonwealth partners to reinvigorate this important organisation.

### Palestine

25. **Mr Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Palestine; and if he will make a statement. [89829]

**Alistair Burt:** We continue to follow developments on Palestinian reconciliation closely, including recent meetings between Hamas and Fatah officials. We have been clear that any new Palestinian authority must uphold the principle of non-violence, be committed to a negotiated two-state solution, and accept previous agreements of the PLO. We will judge any future Palestinian Government by their actions and their readiness to work for peace.

### Libya

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of UK relations with the Government of Libya; and if he will make a statement. [89806]

**Mr Hague:** The relationship between Libya and the UK has changed beyond all recognition during the last year. The British Government have close relations with the Libyan Transitional Government. We will build on the goodwill and gratitude for British support to the Libyan people to develop a new, stronger and more productive relationship in the interest of both Libya and the UK.

### Bhutan

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Government Minister last visited Bhutan in an official capacity. [88850]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have no record of a visit to Bhutan by a Minister in recent years. However, the last visit by a senior official was when our high commissioner to New Delhi, from where our relationship with Bhutan is managed, visited in October 2011.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the agreement to form a Government in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [90303]

**Mr Lidington:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), made a statement on 13 January in response to the agreement among political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to form a state-level Council of Ministers. He said we welcomed this progress and the confirmation of Vjekoslav Bevanda as the new Chair of the Council of Ministers. It is now down to all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to work together to address other outstanding issues, including the State Budget. Bosnia and Herzegovina deserves a secure and prosperous future in the EU; determination, compromise and leadership will be key for Bosnia and Herzegovina to progress on this path.

### British Nationals Abroad: Homicide

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, columns 872-3W, on British nationals abroad: homicide, for what reasons the memorandum of understanding has not yet been approved; and on what date he expects it to be approved. [89743]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is awaiting final approval and signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). ACPO is yet to confirm whether further approval is required by its Cabinet. As soon as the MoU is signed by ACPO it can be circulated to the Coroners Society of England and Wales and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for signature. The FCO is ready to sign.

### Burma: Political Prisoners

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he raised the issue of the release of prisoners during his recent visit to Burma. [89447]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), to the House on 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 28-29WS.

During his recent visit to Burma the Secretary of State met the President, Foreign Minister and Speaker of the Lower House and set out very clearly that the release of all political prisoners was one of the central conditions which we would expect the Burmese Government to fulfil before a more fundamental shift in our relationship could take place.

He also discussed the issue of political prisoners with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

We are all pleased to hear that a significant number of political prisoners in Burma were released last week, including 88 Generation and ethnic leaders. I warmly welcome these releases as a further demonstration of the Burmese Government's commitment to reform. I hope that this positive step will contribute to greater democratic participation in the upcoming parliamentary by-elections.

### Capital Punishment

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries his Department raised the use of the death penalty in 2011. [88856]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** It is the longstanding policy of the UK to oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. We regularly make representations to Governments to abolish the death penalty.

In 2011 the Government raised the death penalty at all appropriate opportunities and with a number of our priority countries as outlined in the Strategy for Global Abolition of the Death Penalty, including our top five priority countries and regions: China, Iran, the US, Belarus and the English-speaking Caribbean region.

I raised the death penalty with my counterparts when I visited the Caribbean in January 2011 and also made statements throughout the year on Iran, India and Belarus, among other death penalty priority countries. In 2011 we also raised the death penalty through the UN Universal Periodic Review process with some of our priority countries including Trinidad and Tobago, Singapore and Antigua.

The Government have also intervened in a number of consular cases involving British nationals and, through the EU, in cases of third country nationals.

### China: Democracy

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions China's ambassador to the UK was summoned to discuss democracy and human rights issues in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [88923]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Chinese ambassador has not been summoned during this period. However, democracy and human rights are a regular topic of discussion in meetings between Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and the Chinese ambassador, and between senior FCO officials and the Chinese ambassador.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the net contribution of the *(a)* UK and *(b)* other EU member states to the common agricultural policy in each of the last five years. [89080]

**Mr Hoban:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Treasury.

EU member states contribute to the EU Budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes within it and there are not, therefore, specific contributions to common agricultural policy expenditure. Details of the UK contributions to the EU Budget are presented in the European Union Finances documents available on HM Treasury's public website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/int_eu_statefraud.htm

### The Commonwealth

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the UK's role in reinvigorating the Commonwealth; and if he will make a statement. [89914]

**Mr Bellingham:** At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2011, Commonwealth leaders agreed some of the most significant reforms in the organisation's history, notably to strengthen the Ministerial Action Group. Britain welcomes this progress and will continue to work with our Commonwealth partners to reinvigorate this important organisation.

### Democracy

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries his Department regarded as not full democracies in 2011. [88854]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not categorise countries in this manner. While democracy is a universal ideal, it can have many different forms and there is no single set of criteria for defining democracy. Most democracies are based on common principles, such as respect for human rights and the rule of law, strong institutions, an accountable Government and a free press. The FCO supports democracy worldwide by seeking to uphold these principles.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many projects promoting democracy his Department supports in *(a)* Burma, *(b)* Cuba and *(c)* China. [88855]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* Our embassy in Burma manages £351,500 of projects this financial year that support the promotion of democracy, largely through building the democratic capacity of activists and civil society organisations.

*(b)* Our embassy in Cuba does not currently provide funding to projects promoting democracy. However, we are keen to see greater political and civil freedoms in Cuba and so we continue to engage with the Cuban Government, both bilaterally and through the EU, to encourage positive change. We promote values such as freedom of expression, assembly and information in Cuba through regular engagement with human rights defenders, and by monitoring public protests and reported abuses.

*(c)* Our embassy in China manages £485,000 of projects this financial year, which are focused on four areas: criminal justice, death penalty, freedom of expression and civil society.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the UK is playing in the delegation from the US National Democratic Institute and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems to the Democratic Republic of Congo to investigate the administration of the legislative elections in that country; and whether the UK is providing a financial contribution to the cost of the mission. [90439]

**Mr Bellingham:** The UK is not participating in the US mission and is not contributing to its costs. However, we remain in close touch with the US on a range of issues on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including elections and the findings of the US scoping mission should help inform future decisions on support to the DRC election process and institutions.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial contributions the UK has made to the *(a)* Carter Centre and *(b)* EU mission in connection with the monitoring of the recent elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [90440]

**Mr Bellingham:** We lobbied to ensure that the EU deployed an observation mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo elections. Five UK observers participated in it. We provided 15% of the cost of the mission through our annual contribution to the EU budget. We also provided £5,900 for expert support to the Southern African Development Community Council of NGOs observation mission.

We did not help fund the Carter Centre election observation mission.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo following the outcome of the elections in that country. [90441]

**Mr Bellingham:** Polling in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) elections was largely peaceful. However, there were a number of serious incidents in the run up to and following the elections as demonstrators clashed with the security forces. We are concerned by reports that the security forces were responsible for 24 civilian casualties and have raised our concerns with the DRC Government. We assess that there remains some risk of political violence.

Since mid December there has been an increase in violence committed by armed groups in the east of DRC. However, we assess that this is unrelated to the elections. We are in close contact with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and key international partners and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Military Aid

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK Government have made to the training of the *(a)* army and *(b)* police force in Democratic Republic of Congo. [90408]

**Mr Bellingham:** The UK has contributed towards training of the Congolese army (FARDC) through the conflict prevention pool. We are currently supporting English language training which will allow better co-ordination between the FARDC and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the last 18 months we have also provided support to training the FARDC in the use of communications equipment and on gathering information against armed groups.

The Department for International Development is providing £60 million in a multi-year programme to improve security sector accountability and police reform. This is focused primarily on reforming the Congolese police (PNC). The programme has supported various PNC training programmes including: principles of community policing; respect for human rights; handling of sexual violence cases; use of communications equipment; and asset management.

Additionally, the UK provides personnel to deliver training for the EU police reform mission.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo on reports of violence by security forces in that country following the outcome of elections. [90407]

**Mr Bellingham:** During the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) election process the UK ambassador to DRC stressed to the DRC Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Interior and Security, the Chief of Police, and the head of the National Intelligence Agency the need for the security forces to respond professionally and proportionately to elections-related violence. The ambassador also raised our concerns about the conduct of the security forces with the Presidential Security Advisor and the President of the National Assembly following the release of the election results. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the US Government on the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [90409]

**Mr Bellingham:** Our officials work closely with their US counterparts on a range of issues on the Democratic Republic of Congo, including the security situation. The UK ambassador to DRC meets his US equivalent regularly. We also have discussions with the US at the UN and through the International Contact Group for the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13; [89145]

(2) how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he plans that his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89214]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) runs an apprenticeship scheme through FCO Services, the FCO's Trading Fund providing essential support services to the FCO and other Government Departments. New apprentices are taken on each September and the programme lasts three years. In 2010-11 £1,056,000 of funding was spent on the scheme. In 2011-12 an estimated £962,000 is being spent on the scheme. Funding details for 2012-13 have not yet been finalised but it is likely to be in line with the current financial year.

### Departmental Records

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on record keeping for official meetings. [88994]

**Mr Lidington:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) record-keeping is governed by relevant legislation as well as standards set by the National Archives. FCO staff are required to register all information of corporate value to the FCO in the FCO's electronic document registry system. This includes documents needed for the operational purposes of the FCO which have a medium or long-term value or interest and documents likely to be needed for the public record. Information of local or short-term value is kept in the shared drive of the FCO's computer system. Records of official meetings will be recorded in the appropriate location, as described above, according to their content. Corporate value records are stored until they are reviewed for destruction or transfer to the National Archive.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89391]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not issued specific guidance to its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) on the employment of unpaid interns. However, the FCO does keep in close contact with its NDPBs on issues relating to employment and public appointments and provides advice as necessary.

Within the FCO's NDPBs over the last 12 months, the British Council's UK offices have employed 15 interns on an unpaid/expenses-only basis. The British Council is currently reviewing policy on interns (UK) and will be offering a small, paid internship programme for summer 2012.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy has had three short-term expenses-only internships over the last 12 months. Information can be found at:

http://www.wfd.org/who-we-are/internships.aspx

There are no other unpaid or expenses-only internships in the FCO's other NDPBs.

### Global Response Centre

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the savings to the public purse arising from his Department's Global Response Centre to date. [88798]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** By using the Global Response Centre (GRC) to deliver out-of-hours consular support to British nationals, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been able to reduce payments to overseas out-of-hours duty officers.

The savings generated from this reduction fluctuate, because in some urgent circumstances overseas staff may still need to be called out. However, we estimate savings to be in the region of £500,000 per annum.

### India: EU External Trade

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement, with *(a)* article 25 of the General Declaration of Human Rights 1948, *(b)* article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the UN, *(c)* article 21 of the EU treaty and *(d)* article 207 of the treaty on the functioning of the EU. [89572]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have an agreed position with EU partners which is to push for clauses making compliance with UN human rights instruments an essential element of all EU bilateral free trade agreements (FTA). We are monitoring the current EU negotiation with India but, as this is not yet finalised, it would be premature to comment on the final text. Once the EU-India FTA is agreed, the FTA will be scrutinised by Parliament in the usual way.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Michael Ellis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the effectiveness of the international community's Iranian sanctions programme. [89792]

**Alistair Burt:** I have had a wide range of discussions with the UK's international partners about the effectiveness of sanctions against Iran. The E3+3 group—made up of the UK, US, France, Germany, Russia and China—supports a policy of pressure on and engagement with Iran. The EU has supported a range of strong sanctions against Iran, designed to bring it back to the negotiating table on the nuclear issue and—separately—to highlight our concerns about Iranian human rights abuses. We and our partners believe that sanctions on the nuclear issue can slow the development of the Iranian programme, as well as pressing Iran to negotiate seriously with the international community.

### Nigeria: Christianity

**Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Nigeria on the protection of Christian communities in that country. [89904]

**Mr Bellingham:** The British Government are concerned by recent increases in violence and terrorist attacks in Nigeria, and recognise the loss of life suffered by both Christian and Muslim communities.

I discussed the broad security situation with Nigerian Foreign Minister, Olugbenga Ashiru, together with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), in September last year. At this meeting I emphasised our commitment to working with the Nigerian authorities to improve security for all Nigerians, in line with the Prime Minister's agreement with President Jonathan in July 2011. Through our high commission in Abuja, we regularly engage with the Nigerian authorities in discussion of security. Most recently, the high commission supported a conference in Kano that brought together regional leaders from the north of Nigeria to discuss peace building and political engagement. This included discussing inter-religious tensions. In addition, the Department for International Development operates a number of programmes in Nigeria that aim to find lasting, peaceful solutions to a range of ongoing tensions in areas of conflict, such as in Jos.

### Serbia: Kosovo

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of *(a)* Serbia and *(b)* Kosovo on the resolution of the border dispute in the north of Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [90304]

**Mr Lidington:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and I have discussed the current challenges in northern Kosovo with the Kosovan and Serbian Governments on a number of occasions recently. The Foreign Secretary raised this when he met Kosovan Foreign Minister Hoxhaj on 20 October 2011. I raised this with Serbian President Tadic and Foreign Minister Jeremic during my visit to Belgrade on 31 October to 1 November 2011. The Foreign Secretary again discussed this with President Tadic on 16 November 2011 (as did the Prime Minister) and with Foreign Minister Jeremic on 28 November 2011 during their visits to the UK.

The Government continue to believe that the best way for Serbia and Kosovo to resolve their differences and ensure stable progress towards eventual EU membership is through the EU-facilitated dialogue. I am pleased that an agreement was reached in the dialogue on 2 December 2011 on integrated border and boundary management, which, when implemented, should resolve the staffing of customs gates 1 and 31 on the Serbia-Kosovo border. I also welcome the implementation on 26 December 2011 of the agreement reached in the dialogue on freedom of movement. The removal of some barricades in northern Kosovo following calls by President Tadic is a further positive development but many challenges remain. The Foreign Secretary and I will continue to raise this with our Serbian and Kosovan counterparts at every opportunity.

### Singapore: Financial Services

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Singapore on the introduction of a global financial transaction tax. [89556]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has spoken to his Singapore counterpart on a range of issues, but not the global financial transaction tax. The British Government are not opposed to a financial transaction tax in principle but believe that such a tax can only be viable if applied globally. While the Government could support a global financial transaction tax, it was clear from discussions at G20 meetings last year that the necessary international consensus does not currently exist.

### United Nations

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total contribution of the UK to the UN was in each of the last five years; and what comparative assessment he has made of the level of the UK's contribution and those of other EU member states. [88853]

**Mr Bellingham:** The UK makes numerous contributions to the many different parts of the UN system and UN-led activities. Payments come from a wide range of

UK Government Departments. Our two largest assessed payments are for the UN Regular Budget and the UN Peacekeeping Budget.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office pays the UK's share of the UN Regular Budget, which covers core UN Secretariat costs and the UN's political activities. During the last five calendar years the UK made assessed contributions to the UN Regular Budget as follows:

| | $ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 134,405,937 |
| 2008 | 121,483,273 |
| 2009 | 161,820,119 |
| 2010 | 139,591,230 |
| 2011 | 155,346,491 |

Currently the UK pays its share of the UN Regular Budget at an assessed rate of 6.604% of the total. This rate, set in 2009, is the second highest rate among the EU member states, after Germany. EU member states, collectively, pay almost 39% of the UN Regular Budget. These assessed payment rates are based on a formula which uses economic data based on relative shares of the world's Gross National Income from the six previous years and then applies various adjustments on the basis of, for example, low per capita income or relative debt burdens. These rates are subject to change when the scale of assessment is revised again at the end of 2012 using new economic data.

The UN Peacekeeping Budget follows the UN's financial year (July-June). The UK's assessed contributions in the last five UN financial years were:

| *UNFY* | $ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | [1]398,382,024 |
| 2007-08 | [1]453,172,780 |
| 2008-09 | 510,392,616 |
| 2009-10 | 638,813,118 |
| 2010-11 | 546,422,541 |

[1] Does not include data for International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and Yugoslavia—data unavailable.

The UK currently pays into the Peacekeeping Budget at an assessed rate of 8.1474%—reflecting the premium that the UK pays as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. The UK is the world's third highest peacekeeping contributor behind the US and Japan, and the largest contributor among the EU member states, ahead of Germany (8.02%), France (7.55%), Italy (5.00%) and Spain (3.18%).

The UK, typically through the relevant lead Department in the appropriate field, also makes many other substantial payments into the UN system. For UN specialised agencies these are mostly voluntary contributions, with some assessed contributions e.g. for core costs. Additionally there are many significant voluntary contributions to UN funds and programmes and other UN bodies depending on how they support UK objectives and priorities. Of UK Government Departments, the Department for International Development (DFID) is the largest contributor of voluntary funding. For illustrative purposes, DFID core contributions to UN bodies in the last five calendar years are set out in the following tables (not including funding that is channelled via country offices as multilateral or bilateral aid, or other HMG Departments' contributions to these bodies).

*United Nations Development programme*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 50,000,000 |
| 2008 | 55,000,000 |
| 2009 | 55,000,000 |
| 2010 | 57,820,000 |
| 2011 | 55,000,000 |

*United Nations Children's Fund*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 21,000,000 |
| 2008 | 21,000,000 |
| 2009 | 21,000,000 |
| 2010 | 21,000,000 |
| 2011 | 42,600,000 |

*United Nations Population Fund*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 20,000,000 |
| 2008 | 20,000,000 |
| 2009 | 22,060,000 |
| 2010 | 20,000,000 |
| 2011 | 20,000,000 |

*World Health Organisation*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 5,500,000 |
| 2008 | 12,500,000 |
| 2009 | 14,640,000 |
| 2010 | 14,000,000 |
| 2011 | 12,500,000 |

*United Nations Sports for Development and Peace*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 19,000,000 |
| 2008 | 10,000,000 |
| 2009 | 11,030,000 |
| 2010 | 10,000,000 |
| 2011 | 10,000,000 |

*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 14,100,624 |
| 2008 | 13,145,293 |
| 2009 | 10,013,305 |
| 2010 | 14,933,819 |
| 2011 | 14,482,083 |

*Food and Agriculture Organisation*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 13,111,296 |
| 2008 | 16,000,000 |
| 2009 | 20,615,063 |
| 2010 | 21,000,000 |
| 2011 | 21,067,064 |

*International Fund for Agricultural Development*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 13,762,000 |
| 2008 | 15,175,652 |
| 2009 | 13,703,750 |
| 2010 | 18,021,250 |
| *2011* | Nil |

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Sir Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the content of meals provided to personnel serving in Afghanistan; when the views of personnel were last sought about their rations; and if he will make a statement. [89287]

**Peter Luff:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 750W, to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy).

Ministers take a close interest in the quality of food provided in Afghanistan and recognise that its importance extends beyond nutritional value and has a significant impact on overall morale.

Food quality standards are maintained and monitored by in-theatre catering staff on a daily basis. Regular assessments of food quality are also carried out by Front Line Command inspection teams. Service personnel are encouraged to provide feedback on the quality and content of meals at the point of service.

Assessments of operational ration packs (ORPs) are regularly undertaken by review panels which include military personnel who have recently returned from operational deployment and feedback is generally very positive. In addition, each ORP contains a feedback form to enable service personnel to comment on the specific quality and content of that individual ORP. These forms are then used by the Defence Fuel and Food Services team to carry out trend analysis of current food selection and meal components and adjust them appropriately.

### Animals: Euthanasia

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many *(a)* horses and *(b)* dogs have been euthanised by his Department in 2011; and for what reasons in each case. [88312]

**Mr Robathan:** A total of 90 military working dogs were euthanased in 2011, for the following reasons:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Old age or behavioural conditions | 35 |
| Musculoskeletal conditions | 19 |
| Neurological conditions | 13 |
| Cancer | 11 |
| Undiagnosed | 6 |
| Gastroenterological conditions | 3 |
| Trauma | 2 |
| Cardiovascular conditions | 1 |
| Respiratory conditions | 0 |
| Integumentary conditions | 0 |
| Aural conditions | 0 |
| Haemolymphatic conditions | 0 |
| Renal conditions | 0 |
| Reproductive conditions | 0 |

In comparison, a total of 125 military working dogs were euthanased in 2009, for the following reasons:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Old age or behavioural conditions | 66 |
| Musculoskeletal conditions | 23 |
| Neurological conditions | 6 |
| Cancer | 4 |
| Undiagnosed | 7 |
| Gastroenterological conditions | 7 |
| Trauma | 0 |
| Cardiovascular conditions | 2 |
| Respiratory conditions | 2 |
| Integumentary conditions | 3 |
| Aural conditions | 1 |
| Haemolymphatic conditions | 3 |
| Renal conditions | 1 |
| Reproductive conditions | 0 |

A total of 28 horses were euthanased in 2011, for the following reasons:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Lameness | 10 |
| Colic | 7 |
| Temperament | 4 |
| Injury | 3 |
| Neurological | 3 |
| Malignancy | 1 |

In comparison, a total of 12 horses were euthanased in 2009, for the following reasons:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Lameness | 8 |
| Temperament | 3 |
| Injury | 1 |

### Armed Forces: Animals

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 9-10W, how much his Department spent on the *(a)* Swaledale ram, *(b)* three mountain goats and *(c)* two Shetland ponies. [90289]

**Mr Robathan:** The Department incurred no costs in acquiring any of these animals.

Information related to the cost of maintaining these animals is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Diamond Jubilee 2012

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel his Department expects to deploy for the Queen's diamond jubilee celebrations; and at what cost to the public purse. [90193]

**Mr Robathan:** Details of the armed forces involvement in events to mark Her Majesty the Queen's diamond jubilee remain at the planning stage and it is too early to say how many armed forces personnel will be involved or what the costs associated with their participation might be.

### Armed Forces: Redundancy

**Mr Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces have been subject to selection for compulsory redundancy in the last year; how many of those so selected would lose pension payments; and how many of those losing pension payments were selected three days before the period when they would have been entitled to full pension rights. [89116]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* All armed forces redundancies are compulsory, although personnel in a redundancy field may apply to be considered for selection. A total of 2,860 personnel were selected for compulsory redundancy in Tranche 1 of the current Armed Forces Redundancy programme, of whom 62% were applicants.

Personnel serving on pension-earning engagements who are selected for redundancy before they have reached the point where they qualify for an immediate pension (IP) or early departure payment (EDP) do not 'lose' pension payments; they receive preserved pensions which are payable at the normal retirement age. In addition, they receive redundancy compensation in the form of tax-free lump sums which, depending on the scheme to which they belong, can be up to three times greater than personnel who have passed this point. They could also qualify for tax-free resettlement grants to which longer-serving personnel are not entitled.

The number of redundees whose exit date falls three days or less before the date on which they would have qualified for an immediate pension, and will now therefore receive their pension entitlement in the form of a preserved pension, is sufficiently small that National Statistics rounding conventions require it to be categorized as between one and five to prevent the inadvertent identification of individuals.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to train landing signals officers. [89994]

**Nick Harvey:** Landing signals officers are also operational pilots and fulfil both roles concurrently on a Carrier Vessel type aircraft carrier. As part of the Long Lead Specialist Skills Programme, the UK has instigated a F18 pilot non-reciprocal exchange programme with the US Navy. This will generate both trained pilots for carrier operations and provide experienced pilots for the landing signals officer roles.

### Astute Class Submarines

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether there is a defence requirement for an eighth Astute class submarine. [89421]

**Peter Luff:** As part of the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, we conducted a detailed review of all military capability, which confirmed that we could deliver the necessary military tasks with seven Astute class submarines which are significantly more capable than their predecessors.

### Conflict Prevention: Finance

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department contributed to the Conflict Pool in each of the last three financial years; to which countries such funding is directed; and how much he plans to contribute in each financial year to 2014-15. [90444]

**Nick Harvey:** Conflict Pool resources are part of a separate Treasury settlement on conflict resources and are managed jointly by DFID, FCO and MOD. This is separate from departmental budget allocations. Over the last three financial years, the MOD has not made any contribution to the Conflict Pool from its departmental budget.

Conflict funding for 2008-09 and 2009-10 was provided as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR) settlement. In 2008-09 the Conflict Prevention Pool and the Stabilisation Aid Fund disbursed around £185 million. In 2009-10, the two funds were merged to create the Conflict Pool, which disbursed approximately £180 million in both 2009-10 and 2010-11.

### Counter-Terrorism: Finance

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's counter-terrorism budget was in 2011-12. [90446]

**Nick Harvey:** Funds are allocated to Defence Engagement Counter Terrorism (CT) activities under the Defence Assistance Fund (DAF). The total budget for the CT element of the DAF for financial year 2011-12 was agreed at £2.42 million.

### Diamond Jubilee 2012: Medals

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the information held on the Joint Personnel Administration system is sufficient to ascertain whether a member of the reserve forces is eligible to receive the Diamond Jubilee Medal. [89561]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The information held on the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA) is sufficient to identify whether a member of the reserve forces is eligible to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, provided individuals and units have effectively maintained their JPA profiles. Any individual who believes they are entitled to the medal and have not received one by the National Thanksgiving Service on 5 June 2012 will be able to appeal to the Ministry of Defence Medal Office.

### Ex-servicemen: Health Services

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 962W, on Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, whether patients referred to the medical assessment programme presenting with physical health problems will no longer be eligible for support under the programme. [90240]

**Mr Robathan:** The Medical Assessment Programme offers mental health assessments rather than physical ones as the number of physical health referrals fell to a very low level. However, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 19 December 2011, *Official*

*Report*, column 962W. The Ministry of Defence continues to provide advice should a GP or 1990-91 Gulf veteran require information on Gulf health issues.

### Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many joint strike fighters his Department plans to purchase; and when he expects such aircraft to be first delivered to the Royal Navy. [88811]

**Peter Luff:** As announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), we plan to deliver a Carrier Strike capability from around 2020. We have yet to make final decisions on the timing and overall numbers of the F-35C aircraft we intend to order and will not do so before the next planned SDSR.

In line with our usual practice, we will not set a firm in-service date for the aircraft until after our next Main Gate decision, currently planned for 2013.

### Libya: Bombs

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the presence of unexploded ordnance left by British Forces in Libya during world war two. [88661]

**Nick Harvey:** We have not specifically assessed the presence of unexploded world war two ordnance in Libya. However, we are working with the UN and international partners to address the very serious issue of unexploded ordnance and weapons contamination caused during the recent uprising. This is preventing Libyan people from returning to their homes and we are urging our allies to increase their contribution to the UN Mine Action Service and other NGOs in order to help the stabilisation and reconstruction of Libya.

### Military Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many BAe 146 aircraft he intends to lease; and at what cost. [89991]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence does not currently intend to lease any BAe 146 aircraft.

Approval has been obtained from the Treasury to investigate the potential purchase of two BAe 146 aircraft in response to an urgent operational requirement specifically to support operations in Afghanistan. Expressions of interest were sought on 21 December 2011 with the intention of tendering in late January 2012.

### Royal Artillery

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which of the Royal Artillery's six close support regiments will be disbanded; and when such closures will take place; [89992]

(2) what estimate he has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the disbandment of a Royal Artillery close support regiment. [89993]

**Nick Harvey:** The Defence Transformation announcement of 18 July 2011 set out our strategic long-term direction on the structure of the Army and its basing requirements across the United Kingdom. It also included the outcome of the review into Reserve Forces "Future Reserves 2020", which, if the Territorial Army develops in the way we intend, will allow a progressive adjustment of the regular/reserve balance of the Army over the coming decade.

This is a complex piece of work which requires the Army to review and rebalance its structure and to identify when and how these changes can be made. This detailed work is now under way but no decisions have as yet been taken.

This detailed work is expected to be completed during 2012.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on use of force onshore against pirates in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [89909]

**Nick Harvey:** Any use of force by the military must be reasonable, necessary and proportionate and comply with applicable international law. Applicable international law includes UN Security Resolution 1851(2008)(renewed). Any further details remain classified for reasons of operational security.

### Submarines

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made in negotiating with BAE Systems to achieve the Government's target of reducing the cost of submarine contracts by £900 million over the next decade. [89422]

**Peter Luff:** The 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review announced that the Submarine Enterprise Performance programme (SEPP) was expected to deliver over £900 million of savings over the next ten years. SEPP will enable the three tier-1 suppliers within the submarine enterprise, BAE Systems Maritime Submarines, Rolls-Royce and Babcock, to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Defence to transform the way the enterprise is delivered and managed.

In May 2011 a Joint Programme Office was established, which brings together expertise from the four parties to develop and manage a joint view of the submarine programme, and in October 2011 the four parties signed a joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) that enshrines the overarching principles for the programme. Negotiations are continuing within this framework, and individual MOUs will be agreed with each tier-1 supplier on how their SEPP contribution will be delivered; the BAE Systems MOU is expected to be signed in the spring of 2012.

### Tornado Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what product is used to wash Tornado jet screens and windows; who provides it; and how much was spent on this product by his Department in each of the last five financial years; [90036]

(2) what *(a)* the guidelines are and *(b)* the regularity is of wash bottles for Tornado jets being replenished; and whether (i) his Department and (ii) the Royal Air Force have decided to (A) stop and (B) decrease the frequency of such replenishment. [90037]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* AL-36 Kilfrost WWF/Mod3 is the windscreen wash fluid used on Tornado aircraft and is supplied by Kilfrost Ltd. AL-36 has a number of different uses within the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Procurement costs of AL-36 for the entire MOD, rounded to the nearest £100, are contained in the following table. I am unable to break this figure down to show cost of stocks that were then issued from centrally procured holdings to Tornado GR4 Force units.

| | *Cost of MOD procurement of AL-36 (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007 (from October) | 9,000 |
| 2008 | 26,200 |
| 2009 | 28,900 |
| 2010 | 30,400 |
| 2011 | 46,300 |

All Tornado wash bottles are checked in accordance with the Tornado Master Maintenance Manual, which stipulates they are replenished at every 'After Flight' servicing and all windscreens and canopies are cleaned by flight servicing personnel immediately prior to each flight. The Department has neither stopped, nor decreased the frequency of, the Tornado Windscreen Wash Bottle replenishment.

### UK National Codification Bureau

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* civilians were employed at the UK National Codification Bureau in each of the last five years; [90043]

(2) what plans he has to relocate the UK National Codification Bureau to Abbey Wood; [90044]

(3) what the annual personnel costs were for the UK National Codification Bureau in each of the last five years. [90045]

**Mr Robathan:** We are considering the future size, shape and location of the UK National Codification Bureau (UKNCB) and the Engineering and Through Life Support (ETLS) Team, which works alongside the UKNCB. This includes the possibility of locating the UKNCB and the ELTS Team to MOD Abbey Wood, Bristol alongside its parent organisation and main user of its services: Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S). However, no final decisions will be taken until the outcome of a value for money study is known and trade unions consultation has been completed. The study is expected to report in February 2012.

Information on the number of civilian posts in the UKNCB and the ETLS Team is contained in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *UKNCB* | *ETLS Team* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 69 | [1]— |
| 2008-09 | 54 | [2]11 |
| 2009-10 | 54 | [2]11 |
| 2010-11 | [3]58 | [2]11 |
| 2011-12 | [3]58 | [2]11 |

[1] Information for 2007-08 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

[2] Includes posts at MOD Abbey Wood: two posts in 2008-09 and three posts in each subsequent year.

[3] This includes 13 posts at MOD Abbey Wood relocated from DE&S sites (other than Glasgow) as part of the wider DE&S Collocation Project.

*Note:*

No service personnel are employed in either team.

Manpower costs for the last three full financial years are contained in the following table:

| | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
| *Financial year* | *UKNCB* | *ETLS Team* |
| 2008-09 | 1.8 | 0.4 |
| 2009-10 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| 2010-11 | 1.6 | 0.4 |

*Note:*

Information for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### War Pensions: Tribunals

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what costs his Department has incurred in respect of the ionising radiation appeals at the war pensions tribunals in respect of *(a)* solicitors, *(b)* barristers, *(c)* experts fees and *(d)* other costs to date; [89874]

(2) what estimate he has made of the projected costs of the ionising radiation appeal hearings at the War Pension Tribunal in January 2012. [89937]

**Mr Robathan:** To date the Ministry of Defence has been notified of bills as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Solicitors | 142,934 |
| Barristers | 151,798 |
| Experts | 32,587 |
| Other costs | 89,639 |
| Total | 416,958 |

These figures exclude VAT and do not include the cost of any associated MOD resourcing or obtaining security clearances for individuals involved in the cases.

Due to matters outside the MOD's control it is difficult to estimate future costs at this time. We are still awaiting confirmation of a hearing date for the ionising radiation appeal.

We remain keen to work with the tribunal and appellants with a view to ensuring that costs relating to all war pensions appeals are proportionate and kept to a minimum.

### Wellington Barracks: Repairs and Maintenance

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will order the repainting of the facade of Wellington Barracks. [90211]

**Mr Robathan:** There are no plans at the current time for the façade of Wellington Barracks to be repainted. In the current economic climate spending on the defence estate must be prioritised.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total support to agriculture her Department provided to each parliamentary constituency in 2011. [88819]

**Mr Paice:** Details of financial support under Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) schemes in the UK may be found on the following website:

http://cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx

These data relate to the CAP budget year running from 16 October 2009 to 15 October 2010. Data for the 2010-11 budget year are expected to be available on the website in April this year.

Unfortunately, following a ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), EU law currently only allows us to publish this information for recipients of support who are defined as legal persons; data on natural persons may not be published. This significantly limits the coverage of the available data (legal persons make up less than 10% of the total number of recipients and account for around 20% of the total funding). The Government are committed to full transparency in the use of CAP funds and are pressing the European Commission to propose new legal requirements that would allow us to publish relevant data on all recipients, while addressing the concerns set out in the CJEU judgment.

The data on the above website can be sorted by postcode area, but including information about parliamentary constituency would require a separate exercise which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

### Animal Welfare: Circuses

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the oral answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 468, on wild animals in circuses, what the international legal responsibilities are which prevent a ban on wild animals in circuses. [83719]

**Mr Paice:** The House has previously heard that the legal advice we have taken indicates that there is a strong risk that a ban could contravene either article 16 of the European Services Directive 2006 and Article 1 Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which was given further effect by the Human Rights Act 1998 and which sets out the conditions which must be met by a state which seeks to restrict or control the use a person may make of his own property.

We are working to overcome the legal obstacles. In the meantime, the Government continue to develop regulations for a licensing scheme for the welfare of wild animals in travelling circuses.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her international counterparts on the effectiveness of licensing systems for the use of animals in circuses. [85227]

**Mr Paice:** We are aware that there are some other countries with licensing systems that cover the use of animals in circuses. Given that we have the experience of a number of animal welfare focused licensing schemes already operating effectively in England and the information on experience elsewhere, we have not found it necessary to hold discussions with international ministerial counterparts.

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the recent decision by the Austrian Constitutional Court, when she plans to introduce a licensing scheme for the use of wild animals in circuses; and if she will make a statement. [89893]

**Mr Paice:** The judgment of the Austrian Constitutional Court was published on 21 December 2011 and we are considering its relevance to the legal position here.

### Animal Welfare: Farms

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition her Department uses of higher welfare of farm animals; and if she will make a statement. [89179]

**Mr Paice:** There is no formal definition of "higher welfare standards". The Government are, however, keen to see a consistent approach to high animal welfare standards across the EU.

### Animal Welfare: Licensing

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the potential effect of her Department's cormorant licensing policy in England on cormorant populations in special protection areas in England, Scotland and Wales; [89932]

(2) what assessment she has made of the level of illegal killing of cormorants; [89933]

(3) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the Wetland Bird Survey in monitoring cormorant population trends in response to licensed killing; [90039]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of licensed killing of cormorants in *(a)* reducing and *(b)* preventing serious damage to fisheries. [90040]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA is currently undertaking a review of cormorant licensing policy in England. This review is assessing current licensing policy in relation to the management of cormorants where they are causing, or are likely to cause, serious damage to inland fisheries. As part of this review consideration is being given to the impact of any revision to the current policy on: cormorant populations in special protection areas; the level of unlawful lethal control of cormorants; the adequacy of the Wetland Bird Survey in monitoring cormorant population trends in response to licensed killing; and the effectiveness of licensed killing of cormorants in reducing and preventing serious damage to fisheries.

A document detailing the scope and aims of the review is available on the DEFRA website. The outcome of the review is expected to be published this summer.

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cormorants were killed under licence in England in winter 2010-11. [90041]

**Richard Benyon:** 1,798 cormorants were killed under licence in England for the season that ran from 1 September 2010 to 15 April 2011.

### Batteries: Recycling

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that the UK meets the 2012 target for battery recycling under the EU Battery Directive; and if she will make a statement. [88932]

**Richard Benyon:** The EU Battery Directive has been transposed in the UK by the Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 (SI 890) in a manner intended to ensure achievement of the 2012 target for the collection of waste portable batteries. The regulations establish a system of producer responsibility which requires each producer of portable batteries, apart from small producers who place one tonne or less on the market each year, to finance the net costs arising from the collection, treatment and recycling of its share of all portable batteries collected in the UK. The producer's share of the net costs is equal to the specified percentage (the collection target for a given year) of the average annual quantity, in tonnes, of portable batteries placed on the market in the UK by the producer.

Furthermore, regulation 8 establishes interim collection targets for 2010 and 2011. The Environment Agency carries out regular checks on progress against these targets to ensure we remain on track to meeting the 2012 target established by the directive and identify whether corrective action is necessary.

### Birds: Nature Conservation

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which bird species have been identified by her Department as being in danger of becoming extinct as a breeding species in England by 2020. [88869]

**Richard Benyon:** We have not specifically identified a list of bird species in danger of becoming extinct as a breeding species in England by 2020. However, under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, DEFRA publishes a list of species of principal importance for conservation in England. There are 49 species of birds included in this list. Although not necessarily at risk of extinction in England by 2020, these are the species found in England which have been identified as priorities for conservation action. This list will inform conservation action under Biodiversity 2020, the biodiversity strategy for England 2011-20.

### Bovine Tuberculosis

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many mammals other than cattle were identified with or slaughtered for bovine tuberculosis as a result of *(a)* a microbial culture sample, *(b)* reports from local veterinary practitioners, *(c)* gross pathology examinations by veterinary investigation centres, *(d)* disclosing diagnostic tests including intradermal skin or blood assays and *(e)* reports from Meat Hygiene Service examinations at abattoirs in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008, (iv) 2009 and (v) 2010. [89799]

**Mr Paice:** The risk to non-bovine species from TB is assessed as generally low and the surveillance system is therefore proportionate to these risks. This means figures are not collected or broken down by the specific categories the hon. Member has requested. Moreover, these scenarios are not mutually exclusive for a particular case and it would be difficult to allocate each case to one of these scenarios. In addition, TB in non-bovine species is not considered to have been "identified" until positive culture results are confirmed.

Figures from 1997 on the annual number of total samples from non-bovine animals that are (a) processed by the AVHLA laboratories and (b) found positive for *M. bovis* infection are broken down by species and are available on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/files/defra-stats-foodfarm-landuselivestock-tb-other-otherspecies-111124.xls

(These figures do not include the number of animals slaughtered from a herd where TB has been confirmed when *M. bovis* is not cultured from that animal.)

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions her Department has invoiced *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* owners of mammals other than bovines for post-mortems on animals suspected of having bovine tuberculosis in each of the last five years. [89800]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA does not invoice members of the public and owners of non-bovine animals for the cost of post-mortem examinations conducted on animals where a reasonable suspicion of TB infection exists.

The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency occasionally receives badgers for a privately funded examination for TB. There were 14 such badgers in the last five years (2007 to 2011 inclusive).

### British Waterways

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the funding requirement of British Waterways in the next 10 years; how much funding her Department is planning to provide following the transfer of British Waterways to the charitable sector; and if she will make a statement. [89480]

**Richard Benyon:** The Government are committed to a sustainable and prosperous future for inland waterways. A new waterways charity, the Canal and River Trust

(CRT), will take over responsibility for inland waterways operated by British Waterways in England and Wales. The Government will give the new charity the best start we can afford. The Government have already agreed to transfer the British Waterways property portfolio, valued at about £460 million, to CRT.

The Government are negotiating a long-term funding agreement with the Trustees of the CRT. Those negotiations are considering a range of issues which could impact on the future funding of the canal network.

The outcome of the negotiations will be announced before the Government lay the necessary order under the Public Bodies Act to transfer British Waterways's functions to CRT.

### Canal and River Trust

**Neil Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms will be in place to ensure that the business plan for the Canal and River Trust is sustainable and financially viable. [89330]

**Richard Benyon:** British Waterways is carrying out financial analysis by preparing financial projections for the Canal and River Trust (CRT) based on various sets of assumptions. This analysis is work in progress and is not yet complete due to the ongoing negotiations between the Government and the CRT transition trustees on the funding agreement. A business plan will be prepared when the funding position is more certain.

Financial sustainability is assessed by projecting the future condition of the infrastructure assets and the standard of maintenance of the waterways and comparing these against target standards. The financial projections, projected future asset condition and maintenance standards will be considered by the CRT transition trustees as part of their due diligence supporting the formation of the new trust.

### Coastal Erosion: Bournemouth

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made on the plans to protect Hengistbury Head from further sea erosion; and if she will make a statement. [87321]

**Richard Benyon:** Bournemouth borough council is the competent Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authority for Bournemouth and led on the recent Shoreline Management Plan for this area. The policy (Hold the Line) for the Hengistbury Head Long Groyne considers that the Groyne will require future improvements to sustain levels of protection against coastal erosion and flooding.

Bournemouth borough council and the Environment Agency are working together as part of the Poole Bay Strategy. This aims to include the eventual long-term replacement of the Long Groyne and the managed realignment of the adjacent coastline at Solent Beach and Double Dykes. This alignment may be forwards or backwards of the existing line. This strategy is due to go to public consultation in 2012-13.

Bournemouth borough council has submitted a funding bid for a 10-year sustainable management plan for the Hengistbury Head Long Groyne and Bournemouth beach frontage.

### Design Services

**Dan Jarvis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts her Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information her Department holds on the location of such companies. [80180]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has identified the following contracts that have been awarded since May 2010 where design was a key element of the purpose of the contract. The design services identified fall into three categories—Publicity, Facility Management Services and Exhibition Stands. DEFRA holds only the address each company uses to administer its contracts.

*Publicity*

| *Contract title* | *Company name* |
|---|---|
| Designing and publication of the New Waterways Charity consultation document | Communisis Print Management Services. Wakefield Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1DU |
| Design of Marine Planning diagrams, maps and planning newsletters relating to RIMA Design | Communisis Print Management Services. Wakefield Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1DU |
| Darwin Annual report—Design and Printing | Communisis Print Management Services. Wakefield Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1DU |
| Design and print of Well Being Leaflet | Communisis Print Management Services. Wakefield Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1DU |
| Design and Print Business card for climate change adaptation campaign | Communisis Print Management Services. Wakefield Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1DU |
| Typesetting and Printing (Miscellaneous design and artwork) | Communisis Print Management Services. Wakefield Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1DU |
| Soil Protection Review, typesetting and amendments | Communisis Print Management Services. Wakefield Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1DU |
| Amendment to DEFRA Public Appointments Forms | Communisis Print Management Services. Wakefield Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1DU |
| Updating DEFRA Brand Guidelines | Communisis Print Management Services. Wakefield Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS10 1DU |
| Design and artwork for a 52 page analytical report 48pp and 4pp cover | Promotional Logistics Ltd, Milner Road, Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2XG |
| Covers—design and artwork for 3 x A4 report covers | |

*Publicity*

| *Contract title* | *Company name* |
|---|---|
| Fishing Focus Summer 2011 | Promotional Logistics Ltd, Milner Road, Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2XG |
| Waste Review Design | Promotional Logistics Ltd, Milner Road, Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2XG |
| Redesign of EPE survey form 2010 | Promotional Logistics Ltd, Milner Road, Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2XG |
| Leaflet and poster design for The Big Tree Plant—Central Office of Information | Central Office of Information, Hercules House, Hercules Rd, London SE1 7DU |
| UK Location Programme Annual Report—editorial, design and technical input and advice | RSW Geomatics Ltd, 8 Audley Close, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6UJ |
| Drinking Water Inspectorate annual report—design and proof reading | CDS Leeds, 7 Eastgate, Leeds, LS2 7LY |

*Facility Management Services*

| *Contract title* | *Company name* |
|---|---|
| Health and Safety works to design, manufacture, install ETP Commission specialist manufacturer to provide quotation | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| Design of an humidification system | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| East Parade. To take initial space plan option and develop into a full design by surveying | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| Design of AH Packing Room at Sand Hutton | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| Design of AH Packing Room at Wallingford | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| Ashford Epps Building. Design for Animal Health packing room at Cold Harbour Farm. Move to consolidate DEFRA Agencies and aid disposal programme | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| Redesign of a Laboratory to incorporate safe areas for new cutting, edge, specialised, laser capture technology | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| Whitehall Place, Westminster 21st Century to design/supply and install a new PA system | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| Feasibility/design study to prevent Pressurized vessel and associated pipe work from freezing this winter | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| Food and Environment Research Agency, YORK Initial programme design and costs for Block 16 3rd party works | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |
| Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science. Detail design of business suite and remodelling of Pakefield Rd site | Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8RT |

*Exhibition Stands*

| *Contract title* | *Company name* |
|---|---|
| Design and production of the DEFRA stands at the two 2010 National Sheep Association shows | ADB (International) Ltd, Unit 5-7, Hamilton Studios, Deep Pit Road, Speedwell, Bristol, BS5 7UF |

## Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what equality impact assessments her Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88581]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has undertaken equality impact assessments since they became a legal requirement in 2005. Under the Equality Act (2010) there is now no legal obligation on public bodies to complete equality impact assessments, but DEFRA has committed to continue to complete equality assessments as good business practice.

Between May 2010 and December 2011 DEFRA completed 24 equality impact assessments (EqIAs):

| *Business area* | *Name of EqIA* | *Date* |
|---|---|---|
| Strategic HR | Code of Conduct | May 2010 |
| Strategic HR | Individual Development Appraisal | May 2010 |
| Strategic HR | Joiners and Leavers process | June 2010 |
| Food and Farming Group | TB Badger Control Policy | September 2010 |
| Strategic HR | Childcare Strategy | September 2010 |
| Environment and Rural Group | Rural Development Plan for England—policy revisions post 2010 spending review | Initial screening November 2010 |
| Farming for the Future Portfolio | Responsibility and Cost Sharing Programme | November 2010 |
| Strategic HR | Managing Attendance Policy | November 2010 |
| Finance (Ongoing Function/Performance Programme) | Merger of the Internal Audit and Assurance Teams | December 2010 |
| Landscapes and | The Big Tree Plant (Tree Planting | December |

| *Business area* | *Name of EqIA* | *Date* |
|---|---|---|
| Outdoor Recreation | Campaign) | 2010 |
| Environment and Rural Group | Reform of English fisheries management arrangements | December 2010 |
| Strategic HR | Initial screening voluntary exit scheme | February 2011 |
| Waste Management | Review of waste policies | February 2011 |
| Waste Management | Hazardous Waste National Policy Statement | March 2011 |
| Strategic HR | Full assessment voluntary exit screening | May 2011 |
| Atmosphere and Local Environment Programme | Technical Guidance notes | June 2011 |
| Legal | Proposed changes to structure of DEFRA Legal by transferring staff to the Crown Prosecution Service. | June 2011 |
| Water | Abolition of the Inland Waterways Advisory Council Consultation | June 2011 |
| Change Programme | DEFRA Change programme | June 2011 |
| Strategic HR | Additional Paternity Leave and Pay Regulations Policy | June 2011 |
| Marine and Natural Environment | New technical management measures for scallop dredging in English waters (English Scallop Order) | August 2011 |
| Food and Farming Group | Task Force on Farming Regulation: CPH Review Workstream | September 2011 |
| Natural Environment Economics | Rural Economy Growth Review | October 2011 |
| Communications | Internal restructure | October 2011 |

## Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many speechwriters her Department employs at each pay grade. [89400]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA employs one member of staff who writes speeches for Ministers, along with other duties. Her pay grade is Senior Information Officer.

## Procurement

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures her Department has put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been realised through use of such procedures in the last year. [83642]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA complies with the Cabinet Office central spending controls to ensure value for money on purchases. These are set out in my answer of 11 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 359-62W, to the hon. Member for Pontypridd (Owen Smith). In addition, core DEFRA is continually improving its purchasing systems to deliver greater value for money.

Not all the savings realised will be attributable to these controls and improvements. However, overall procurement expenditure in core DEFRA in the year to October 2011 was £368,371,348—around 2% less than initial estimates. This is approximately 20% lower than in the previous year, in which £459,362,066 was spent from November 2009 to October 2010.

## Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in her Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77372]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA does not record ministerial or senior official speeches by the specific categories of organisation requested and to provide the detailed information would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the Department publishes speeches given by Ministers on the departmental website at the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/category/speeches/

Details of the Permanent Secretary's meetings with external organisations dating back to 1 October 2010 can also be found on the website at the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/who/management/

## Voluntary Work

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volunteering *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department have undertaken as part of the One Day Challenge; what the nature of the work undertaken was; on what dates it took place; and what the names were of the organisations assisted. [76240]

**Richard Benyon:** All DEFRA Ministers have pledged to undertake the One Day Challenge to give time to help others. The following is a list of activities undertaken to date:

| | *Date* | *Location* | *Volunteer work* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Secretary of State | 29 October 2011 | Knowle | For 'Marie Curie Make a Difference Day' |
| | 28 October 2011 | The Priory, Solihull | Recording a Talking Magazine greeting |
| | 14 October 2011 | Mell Square, Solihull | Bible reading for 'Bible 4 Life' |
| | 1 October 2011 | Knowle Parish Church | Litter pick |

| | *Date* | *Location* | *Volunteer work* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jim Paice | 16 September 2011 | Jarman Centre, Newmarket | Q&A with Waterbeach Brownies |
| Richard Benyon | 3 August 2011 | Ashampsted Common | Clearing scrub and ragwort for the Friends of the Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys |

My noble Friend Lord Taylor will undertake the Challenge this year.

### Dogs

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to introduce a minimum age for dog ownership. [89941]

**Mr Paice:** The Government have no plans to introduce a minimum age for dog ownership. I consider that the existing law which makes it an offence to sell a pet animal to anyone under the age of 16 provides the necessary safeguards.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to require owners of breeding dogs to be accredited. [89942]

**Mr Paice:** The independent Advisory Council on the Welfare Issues of Dog Breeding (DAC) was set up to make recommendations about ways to improve the health and welfare of dogs bred and sold in this country. DAC has been meeting with key stakeholders on this issue and the Government will consider any recommendations DAC make for improving the health and welfare of dogs bred in this country.

### Dogs: Tagging

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research her Department has undertaken on compulsory microchipping; [89943]

(2) what plans she has to improve protection from dangerous dogs; and if she will make a statement. [89944]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA is considering a number of options to promote more responsible ownership of dogs and reduce the number of dog attacks. One option being considered, and which has been discussed with key stakeholders, is the issue of compulsory microchipping of dogs. While the main purpose of microchipping is to promote good welfare by helping to reunite dogs with their owners should they become lost or stolen, the ability to link dog with owner also serves as an example of responsible ownership. The Government will make an announcement on ways of promoting more responsible ownership of dogs and reducing dog attacks shortly.

### Ecosystem Markets Task Force

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the work of the Ecosystem Markets Task Force. [89620]

**Richard Benyon:** The Ecosystem Markets Task Force is one of the Government's key commitments from the Natural Environment White Paper, "The Natural Choice". The Task Force, which is independent, will report by March 2013 to the Secretaries of State for: Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable); Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne); and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman). It will review opportunities for UK businesses from expanding green goods, services, products, investment vehicles, and markets which value and protect nature. My fellow Ministers and I have been very interested in its progress, and in recent months the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has met the Chair of the Task Force, Ian Cheshire, and attended the Task Force's launch event.

### Eggs: EU Law

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to take steps to block products containing eggs from import from countries that are not compliant with the welfare of laying hens directive. [90282]

**Mr Paice:** The UK's enforcement strategy of the welfare of laying hens directive is set out in the written ministerial statement laid in the House on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 15-19WS.

### Environmental Protection Act 1990

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice she has received on compliance of her Department's proposed contaminated land statutory guidance with Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. [88831]

**Richard Benyon:** Authorisation to issue statutory guidance under Part 2A of the Contaminated Land Regime is given to the Secretary of State according to section 78YA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended by section 57 of the Environment Act 1995.

### Fisheries: Licensing

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with food retailers on the implications of a suspension of the Marine Stewardship Council's licence for mackerel fishing. [88904]

**Richard Benyon:** Neither the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), nor I have had direct discussions with food retailers on the implications of a suspension of the Marine Stewardship

Council's certification of the North East Atlantic mackerel fisheries. I am aware, however, of this issue and DEFRA officials are in discussion with some of the major retailers, the British Retail Consortium and representatives of the processing sector on this and related issues on the ongoing dispute on the management of the mackerel fishery.

Suspension of certification is a serious concern for food retailers and other industry sectors. It is deeply regrettable that the actions of others jeopardise certification after such good work by our industries to build the stock to its current healthy state.

I take this situation very seriously and the possible removal of certification makes finding a solution to the mackerel dispute all the more important. As the most important fishery to the UK in economic terms, it is vitally important that the sustainable future of the stock is assured.

I will ensure that a dialogue with all affected industry sectors is maintained as this issue progresses, to ensure that UK interests are properly represented and seek to ensure that withdrawal of certification is avoided.

### Fisheries: Navy

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department provides funding towards meeting the cost of operating the UK's fishery patrol vessels. [90222]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA does not provide any direct funding for the Royal Navy's Fisheries Protection Squadron. It does provide grant in aid funding for the Marine Management Organisation, which currently contracts the Royal Navy to provide surface surveillance activities to enforce the common fisheries policy.

### Fisheries: Subsidies

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of special report No. 12/2011 by the European Court of Auditors on the European Fisheries Fund. [89356]

**Richard Benyon:** The European Court of Auditors (ECA) undertook an audit during the period May to October 2010.

The special report identified a failing of European Fisheries Fund regulation to define the eligibility criteria for all projects under Article 25 of EC 1198/2006: Investments on board fishing vessels and selectivity. This is specifically in relation to having no definition of a vessel's 'ability' to catch fish. Further analytical work for all member states was commissioned in December 2011. Consultation is ongoing and this information will be available later this month.

The special report is currently being reviewed. A specific Audit of the UK decommissioning scheme was carried out by the ECA which informed this overall EU study. There may be aspects of the special report which are not within the context of UK Audit findings. All 27 recommendations of the UK audit have been considered and addressed with the exception of post implementation evaluation of decommissioning in Scotland, which is due in early 2012.

### Floods: Insurance

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress has been made by the working party formed after the Flood Summit in September 2010; [90277]

(2) what progress has been made on identifying a replacement for the Statement of Principles between the Association of British Insurers and the Government before its expiry. [90432]

**Richard Benyon:** Since the Statement of Principles was last renewed in 2008, it has always been intended that this would be the last renewal and that the current agreement would expire on 30 June 2013. Following the Flood Summit we held in September 2010, three working groups were set up to look at insurance models for flood risk, improving flood risk data, and property-level resistance and resilience. The groups' findings were published in December 2011.

At the same time, we announced that beyond the expiry of the Statement of Principles in 2013, the Government will continue to invest to reduce the risk of flooding, especially for those households at the highest flood risk and living in the most deprived communities.

A new shared understanding is being developed that sets out more clearly what individual customers can expect from their insurer and from Government. It will reflect the continued responsibility and commitment of Government and insurers to making sure insurance for flood risk remains widely available.

Over the next few months we will consider the case for additional measures to help safeguard the affordability of flood insurance for those groups that might struggle most with premium increases. We plan to make further announcements in the spring.

### Food: Additives

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage producers to reduce preservatives and additives in children's food. [89593]

**Anne Milton:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department of Health.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has responsibility for food additives issues.

All food additives, including preservatives, are thoroughly tested for safety prior to approval and have been reviewed by independent expert bodies. European Union legislation restricts the use of additives to certain categories of foods and specified levels. These limits ensure that the amount consumed does not exceed safe levels, for all age groups, and that the level in food is the minimum necessary to achieve the intended purpose.

Following a study commissioned by the FSA, and conducted by Southampton university, to see if six specific colours had any effect on children's behaviour, United Kingdom Ministers and the FSA asked the UK food industry for a voluntary withdrawal on the use of those six colours. In addition, foods containing these colours are required to be labelled with a warning that they may have an adverse effect on children's behaviour.

With the exception of these colours, we are advised by the FSA that there are no plans to encourage food producers to further reduce additives in food at this stage.

### Food: Salt

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage food producers to reduce levels of salt in food products. [89594]

**Anne Milton:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department of Health.

Work to reduce salt in food is being taken forward under the Public Health Responsibility Deal (RD). A wide range of businesses including retailers, manufacturers and caterers have committed to the following salt reduction pledge to deliver a substantial reduction in the salt content of United Kingdom foodstuffs:

> "We commit to the salt targets for the end of 2012 agreed by the Responsibility Deal, which collectively will deliver a further 15% reduction on 2010 targets. For some products, this will require acceptable technical solutions which we are working to achieve. These targets will give a total salt reduction of nearly lg per person per day compared to 2007 levels in food. We recognise that achieving the public health goal of consuming no more than 6g of salt per person per day will necessitate action across the whole industry, Government, NGOs and individuals."

Around 70 organisations have already committed to the salt pledge.

The RD salt targets have been developed for 80 specific food groups that contribute most to population salt intakes and are to be achieved by the end of 2012.

### Food: Waste

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to strengthen phase 2 of the Courtauld Commitment to reduce levels of household food waste. [89360]

**Richard Benyon:** Phase 2 of the Courtauld Commitment targets a reduction in UK household food and drink waste of 4% by December 2012, compared with 2009, along with targets on the carbon impact of packaging and supply chain waste. The targets for Phase 2 have been carefully developed to be sufficiently challenging, yet taking into account what is realistically achievable over the period of the agreement, including accounting for predicted market growth.

On 5 December 2011, the DEFRA-funded Waste Review and Action Programme (WRAP) published interim results covering the first year (2009-10) of Courtauld Phase 2. We have made very good progress towards the target on household food waste with a 3% reduction in household food waste in the first year of the agreement (2010 compared with 2009).

The 2011 Waste Review committed the Government to establishing the potential for a successor to Phase 2 of the Courtauld Commitment with businesses in the food retail and manufacturing sector. We will be exploring options over the coming months.

### Hen Harriers: Nature Conservation

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether an action plans is in place to prevent the extinction of the hen harrier as a breeding species in England. [88870]

**Richard Benyon:** A number of actions are being taken to help improve the status of the hen harrier.

Raptor persecution is a National Wildlife Crime Priority, with the hen harrier being one of six species highlighted for special attention. DEFRA officials are involved with the Environment Council-facilitated Hen Harrier Dialogue Working Group, which provides an opportunity for Government and other stakeholders to engage in finding sustainable solutions to improve hen harrier population growth alongside the needs of grouse moor managers. In addition, the Langholm Moor Demonstration Project, supported by many of those involved in the dialogue, is trialling methods, such as diversionary feeding, that might enable an economically viable grouse moor and healthy hen harrier population to co-exist.

The hen harrier is also included on the list of priority species in England published by DEFRA under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

### Landfill Tax

**Simon Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effect of increasing landfill tax on levels of food waste sent to landfill; and if she will make a statement. [88924]

**Richard Benyon:** We estimate the tonnage of food waste sent to landfill will fall by around 14% between 2011 and 2016. This estimate takes account of all policies, not just landfill tax, but does not include policies announced as part of the 2011 Review of Waste Policy in England. Policies on food waste in the review, such as a new voluntary agreement with the hospitality and food service sector, may have a further impact on the amount of food waste sent to landfill. The Government's long-term vision is that no food waste goes to landfill.

Landfill tax will increase from £56 per tonne in 2011-12 to £64 per tonne in 2012-13, £72 per tonne in 2013-14 and £80 per tonne by 2015.

### Poultry: Animal Welfare

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made on its commitment to ban beak trimming by 2016. [89877]

**Mr Paice:** The Beak Trimming Action Group, comprising welfare groups, industry representatives, veterinarians, Government officials and academics, was reconvened in 2011 to work towards the Government's commitment to review the evidence in 2015, with a view to banning beak trimming in 2016. The group has identified and assessed the pros and cons of options aimed at delivering this commitment and is in the process of finalising its advice and recommended approach.

**Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the Ministry of Agriculture in France on enforcement of the laying hen regulations. [90012]

**Mr Paice:** My officials and I have discussed enforcement in Brussels with the Commission and all member states, including the French Government, but no separate discussions have taken place.

### Professor Tim Lang

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has *(a)* commissioned work from and *(b)* been advised by Professor Tim Lang. [89953]

**Richard Benyon:** Under this Government, Professor Tim Lang has not been commissioned to work for or advise the Department. As with other academics, we engage Professor Lang on an ad hoc basis to discuss policy related matters.

### Seals: Conservation

**Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on support for international efforts to prohibit trade in harp seal fur. [89548]

**Mr Paice:** The Government acknowledge the widespread concern in the UK about the inhumane nature of seal hunting practices in many parts of the world. We welcome the introduction of Council Regulation 1007/2009, which introduced an EU ban on trade in seal products and will continue to support EU measures to prohibit this trade.

### Sewers: Planning

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislative proposals she plans to bring forward to simplify the law governing the relative contributions of developers to existing water and sewerage infrastructure when new developments are built. [89200]

**Richard Benyon:** The recently published Water White Paper, 'Water for Life', confirms that the Ofwat and Cave reviews identified problems with how developers are charged for connecting to the water and sewerage infrastructure. The Government intend to increase the transparency of charges within these developer contributions. DEFRA officials are working with Ofwat to review the existing charging provisions and identify options for a simplified methodology that would enable a reduction in administrative burdens.

### Sussex Wildlife Trust

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under which category of expenditure her Department funds the Sussex Wildlife Trust; and for what purpose. [89058]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA does not provide core funding to the Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT). However, the trust has received departmental funding for some particular purposes. In September 2011 DEFRA awarded SWT, on behalf of the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership, a one-off grant from the Local Nature Partnership capacity building fund to help it to explore the potential for a Local Nature Partnership in Sussex. In 2011-12 DEFRA's Biodiversity Programme provided funds for a small study to review and standardise the collection of information on occurrence of wild species and habitats in the south east of England. This project was led by the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre, which is hosted by SWT. SWT also receives annual funding in respect of agri-environment agreements funded through the Rural Development Programme for England.

SWT receives small grants from Natural England and the Environment Agency, which both also fund the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre for ongoing supply of data on species and habitats to support conservation planning. Additionally, the Environment Agency plans to fund a partnership project between the SWT, the Environment Agency and the Woodland Trust which will deliver environmental improvements in the Sussex Ouse catchment.

### Water Companies

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department will publish a White Paper on the future of the water and sewerage industry. [89043]

**Richard Benyon:** The water White Paper, "Water for Life", was published on 8 December 2011. A copy of the water White Paper can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/legislation/whitepaper/

### Water Supply: Israel

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has had discussions with *(a)* the Government of Israel and *(b)* Israeli companies on new techniques for efficient use of water. [89955]

**Richard Benyon:** I can confirm that none of the DEFRA Ministers have had discussions with either the Government of Israel or any Israeli companies regarding new techniques for efficient uses of water.

### Water: Meters

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effect of water impurities and particulates on the accuracy of mechanical water meters. [89667]

**Richard Benyon:** Impurities, such as grit or air, can get into the water network and cause problems with mechanical water meters. If a customer suspects inaccurate meter readings, most water companies will arrange for the meter to be tested. If the meter is found to be providing inaccurate readings, it is likely that the water company would arrange for repair or replacement, as estimates for repair/replacement cycles are factored into company Capital Expenditure investment programmes.

The Water Industry's Research body has conducted relevant research in this area, in order to support more reliable and systematic testing of water meter accuracy.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to answer Question 77607, on applications from employees to run services for which her Department is directly responsible, tabled on 26 October 2011. [87136]

**Richard Benyon:** The answer to this question was given on 20 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 1104W. The delay was due to administrative errors.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to answer question 74828 on funding of civil society organisations, tabled on 11 October 2011 for answer on 13 October 2011; and what the reasons are for the time taken to answer. [87575]

**Richard Benyon:** The answer to this question was published on 11 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 376W. The delay was due to administrative errors.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many companies participating in the Business Compact he expects to pay interns the national minimum wage. [90423]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The Business Compact encourages companies to offer financial support to their interns so that they are genuinely open to all young people and not just those from well-off backgrounds.

In many cases payment of the national minimum wage will be required under the law, and we are stepping up our communication and enforcement of the national minimum wage legislation in relation to interns. In other cases then the payment of expenses, eg for lunch and travel costs, will be a real help and we are encouraging that as a minimum.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidelines he plans to provide to companies participating in the Business Compact on the definition of *(a)* an intern, *(b)* an internship and *(c)* the circumstances in which interns are legally entitled to be paid at the national minimum wage. [90424]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Guidance on the likely characteristics of internships and what an intern might expect from such a placement is outlined in the Common Best Practice Code for High Quality Internships published by the Gateway to the Professions Collaborative Forum:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/higher-education/docs/c/11-1068-common-best-practice-code-for-quality-internships.pdf

Information and advice covering the circumstances in which interns are legally entitled to the national minimum wage is available on the Business Link website:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1096811532&r.l1=1073858787&r.l2=1081657912&r.l3=1096811513&r.s=sc&type=RESOURCES

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish a copy of each letter he sent to companies asking them to participate in the Business Compact and the responses received. [90425]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Following the announcement of 115 signatories to the Social Mobility Business Compact on 12 January 2012, I wrote to some of the biggest employers and to other organisations in sectors historically difficult to get into. Businesses contacted range from leading law firms and financial institutions to key cultural and historic venues across Britain.

A copy of the template letter sent to each of these businesses will be published on the Business Compact website at:

www.dpm.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/businesscompact

New signatories will be listed on the Business Compact website.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what reporting mechanisms have been put in place to monitor businesses taking part in the Business Compact scheme. [90426]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The Business Compact is a voluntary agreement. Those businesses that have signed up have made a clear commitment to the Compact, highlighting the work they are doing to promote fair and open recruitment and encouraging others to follow suit.

We are considering a range of light-touch measures to encourage businesses and young people alike to bring any possible issues to our attention.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Aviation

**Mark Field:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people identified as migrants in the International Passenger Survey gave the reason for their visit as *(a)* a definite job to go to, *(b)* looking for work, *(c)* a working holiday, *(d)* a business trip, *(e)* accompany/join whose previous occupation was work and *(f)* other whose previous occupation was not 'houseperson' or 'retired' in each year from 2004 to 2010; [89915]

(2) how many of the people interviewed for the International Passenger Survey were identified as a *(a)* long-term and *(b)* short-term migrant in each year from 2004 to 2010; [89916]

(3) how many interviews with migrants the International Passenger Survey conducted in each year from 2004 to 2010; and what the *(a)* port of entry and *(b)* nationality was of each such interviewee. [89917]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your questions asking:

1. How many people identified as migrants in the International Passenger Survey gave the reason for their visit as (a) a definite job to go to, (b) looking for work, (c) a working holiday, (d) a business trip, (e) accompany/join whose previous occupation was work and (f) other whose previous occupation was not 'houseperson' or' retired' in each year from 2004 to 2010 [89915]

2. How many of the people interviewed for the International Passenger Survey were identified as a (a) long-term and (b) short-term migrant in each year from 2004 to 2010 [89916]

3. How many interviews with migrants the International Passenger Survey (IPS) conducted in each year from 2004 to 2010; and what the (a) port of entry and (b) nationality was of each such interviewee [89917]

Table 1 shows the number of long-term migrants identified in the IPS as having arrived in the UK by main reason for visit and previous occupation, per calendar year from 2004 to 2010.

Table 2 shows the number of long-term migrants identified in the IPS as having arrived in the UK, per calendar year from 2004 to 2010. Similarly Table 3 shows the number of short-term migrants arrivals identified in the UK per calendar year from 2004 to 2008. This is the latest information available and has been produced for the UK and per calendar year for comparison purposes. Short-term migration estimates are published for England and Wales only and by mid-year.

Table 4a and b show the port of entry and the citizenship of long-term migrants arriving in the UK, for calendar years from 2004 to 2010. The contacts provided refer to the number of people interviewed who were identified as migrants whose intention was to stay 12 months or longer.

Copies of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

## Birth Rate: Greater London

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the birth rate was in *(a)* Poplar and Limehouse constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [89866]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the birth rate was in (a) Poplar and Limehouse constituency (b) the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, and (c) nationally, in the latest period for which figures are available. 89866

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has been supplied as this is the most useful measure of an area's fertility level. The TFR is the average number of live children that a group of women would each bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.

*Total fertility rate (TFR), selected areas, 2010*

| *Area* | *TFR* |
|---|---|
| (a) Poplar and Limehouse constituency | 1.88 |
| (b) Tower Hamlets London Borough | 1.69 |
| (c) England and Wales | 2.00 |

## Census

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects the first assessment of the results of the 2011 Census to be published. [89952]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office asking when the first assessment of the results of the 2011 Census will be published. (89952)

The main field operation for the 2011 Census in England and Wales was completed at the end of May, and the significant task of processing and quality assuring the data is underway.

A prospectus of the outputs to be produced from the Census will be published in March; current plans are to release the first results from the 2011 Census in England and Wales in July 2012. The results for Scotland and Northern Ireland will be published separately by National Records Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency respectively.

The results will be published with information about the quality and the quality assurance process that ONS carried out prior to publication.

## Birth Rate: Wales

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many babies were born in Wales in 2011. [90389]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many babies were born in Wales in 2011 (90389).

Figures for the number of live births to women usually resident in Wales are compiled from birth registration data. Figures for the whole of 2011 are not yet available.

The following table provides the latest available figures, which are for the first two quarters of 2011:

*Provisional numbers of live births to mothers usually resident in Wales, 2011 quarters 1 and 2*

| *2011* | *Live births (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 8.7 |
| Quarter 2 | 8.8 |

*Note:*
Provisional data
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

These data were published in November 2011 and are available at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/vital-statistics--population-and-health-reference-tables/winter-2011-update/quarterly-birth-and-death-tables.xls

Provisional figures for quarter 3 of 2011 will be published in Spring 2012 and ONS intends to publish final quarterly and annual data for 2011 in July/August 2012.

## Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89410]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office employs two full-time speechwriters, one at TIS3 grade and the other at Band A. Pay grades are £36,371 to £47,167 and £44,300 to £59,885 respectively. The Cabinet Office also publishes this data. Figures for September 2011 can be found at:

https://update.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/CabinetOfficestaffandSalarydataSEPT2011FINAL_juniordata.csv

## Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89409]

**Mr Maude:** We expect all Cabinet Office non-departmental public bodies to prioritise paid intern opportunities.

From 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011 the Cabinet Office's non-departmental public bodies employed no unpaid or expenses-only interns.

## Demography

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* people of working age there are in each parliamentary constituency in England. [90227]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) pensioners and (b) people of working age there are in each parliamentary constituency in England (90227).

The table shows (a) the number of people aged 65 and over for men and 60 and over for women and (b) the number of people aged 16 to 64 for men and 16 to 59 for women for mid-2010. This is the latest year for which population estimates are available.

The age groups given for pensioners in the table are the closest available approximation to state pension age at mid-2010 that can be obtained for population estimates by parliamentary constituency. On 30 June 2010 state pension age was 65 for men and 60 years and 57 days for women.

Copies of the table have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mid-2010 population estimates for parliamentary constituencies in England were published as experimental statistics on 26 October 2011 and are the latest available. The estimates are available at:

http://ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/sape/parliament-constituency-pop-est/mid-2010-release/index.html

## Households: Greater London

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many single parent households there were in *(a)* Poplar and Limehouse constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [89864]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many single parent households there were in (a) Poplar and Limehouse constituency, (b) the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and (c) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. 89864

The number and type of households in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey. Estimates are provided for lone parent households with at least one dependent child. Dependent children are those living with their parent(s) and either (a) aged under 16, or (b) aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, excluding children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

Data are shown for Poplar and Limehouse constituency, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the UK in 2010.

*Lone parent households with dependent children in Poplar and Limehouse constituency, Tower Hamlets and the UK, 2010*

| *Area* | *Estimate (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| Poplar and Limehouse | 4 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7 |
| UK | 1,840 |

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Population Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average number of children per household was in *(a)* Poplar and Limehouse constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [89868]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average number of children per household was in (a) Poplar and Limehouse constituency, (b) the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and (c) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. 89868

The number of households and children in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey. The figures below take account of dependent children, namely those living with their parent(s) and either (a) aged under 16, or (b) aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, excluding children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

Two measures are shown: The average number of dependent children per household for all households including those containing no children, and per household containing at least one dependent child. These are shown for Poplar and Limehouse constituency, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the UK in 2010.

*Average number of dependent children per household, and per household containing at least one dependent child, in Poplar and Limehouse constituency, Tower Hamlets and the UK, 2010*

| *Area* | *Average number of dependent children per household (all households)* | *Average number of dependent children per household containing at least one dependent child* |
|---|---|---|
| Poplar and Limehouse | 0.61 | 2.21 |
| Tower Hamlets | 0.55 | 2.11 |
| UK | 0.51 | 1.76 |

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Population Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

## Pay: Scotland

**Mr Davidson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people who would have earned a wage lower than the national minimum wage if there was no national minimum wage in *(a)* Glasgow South West constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1999. [90373]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate he has made of the number of people who would have earned a wage lower than the level of the national minimum wage if there was no national minimum wage in (a) Glasgow South West constituency, (b) Glasgow, (c) Scotland and (d) the UK in each year since 1999. (90373)

ONS does not make estimates of the numbers of people who would have earned less than the national minimum wage rates set each year if no legislation existed to set those rates in the first place.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ashe/low-pay/methodology-for-low-pay-estimates/index.html

### Population Studies: Migration

**Mark Field:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to include migrants who come to the UK for less than 12 months in official population estimates. [89862]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary question asking the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether he plans to include migrants who come to the UK for less than 12 months in official population estimates (89862).

The Mid-Year Population Estimates as they are currently published are consistent with the standard UN definition for population estimates which is based upon the concept of usual residence and includes people who reside in the location for at least 12 months. This definition is also the recommended definition used by Eurostat to provide comparable population data at EU level.

Visitors and short-term migrants (who enter or leave the UK for less than 12 months) are not included in the official population estimates and there are no plans to do so.

ONS currently publishes England and Wales estimates of short-term migrant inflows and the next bulletin is due to be published on 23 February. Additionally ONS plans to publish recently developed experimental short-term migration inflow estimates for each local authority on 23 February. These estimates will help local authorities understand how many short term migrants entered each England and Wales local authority for work or study purposes and stayed for periods of between 3-12 months in the mid-years 2008-2010. It should be noted however that these estimates are inflows of short-term migrants, not stocks.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* Centrepoint, *(b)* Crisis, *(c)* Skill Force and *(d)* Shelter in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90397]

**Mr Hurd:** In the financial year 2010-11 and up to the end of December in 2011-12, the Cabinet Office has not directly funded Centrepoint, Crisis, Skill Force or Shelter.

## HEALTH

### Baby Care Units: Nurses

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many neonatal nurses there were providing care for those living in south London in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and what estimate he has made of the number of such nurses in 2012. [89901]

**Anne Milton:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answers I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Great Yarmouth (Brandon Lewis), on 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 542W.

### Baby Care Units: Standards

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he has had to discuss standards of NHS neonatal care. [89902]

**Anne Milton:** I met representatives from Bliss on 28 October 2010 and 3 May 2011 to discuss the standards and good practice principles set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's 'Quality Standard for Specialist Neonatal Care' and the Department's national health service 'Toolkit for High Quality Neonatal Services'.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the relationship between levels of neonatal nursing staff and child mortality. [89903]

**Anne Milton:** No assessment has been made centrally. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the Department have published two evidence-based documents, the "Quality Standard for Specialist Neonatal Care" and the "Toolkit for High Quality Neonatal Services", to assist NHS commissioners and providers in the provision of high quality care for babies and their families, including neonatal workforce standards. These documents have already been placed in the Library.

*Quality Standard for Specialist Neonatal Care is available at:*

www.nice.org.uk/media/17A/A8/SpecialistNeonatalQualityStandardRevisedOct10.pdf

*Toolkit for High Quality Neonatal Services is available at:*

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/@sta/@perf/documents/digitalasset/dh_108435.pdf

### Bone Diseases

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of *(a)* rickets and *(b)* osteomalacia was in (i) Poplar and Limehouse constituency, (ii) the London borough of Tower Hamlets and (iii) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [89865]

**Anne Milton:** The number of episodes of rickets and osteomalacia for the Poplar and Limehouse constituency is not available. Data from the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) on the number of episodes of rickets and osteomalacia in 2010-11 in the London borough of Tower Hamlets are 13 and nationally 2,125.

These figures do not equal incidence of disease, but a count of hospital treatments where this has been recorded. The number of episodes does not represent the number of different patients, as a person may be admitted on more than one occasion in any given year.

The data are grouped as shown because the codes used to classify rickets include both 'active rickets' and 'infantile and juvenile osteomalacia'. The codes used to classify osteomalacia include both 'adult osteomalacia' and 'adult rickets'.

Reference should be made to the footnotes when interpreting the data provided.[1,2,3,4,5]

[1] The number of Finished Consultant Episodes with a primary or secondary diagnosis of rickets and osteomalacia have been defined by ICD-10 classification codes E55.0 and M83 for Tower Hamlets primary care trust (PCT) or residence in England 2010-11.

[2] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end.

[3] The number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis indicates where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

[4] HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage .and changes in NHS practice.

[5] The strategic health authority (SHA) or PCT of residence is that containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

## Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage health and wellbeing boards to measure and monitor children's subjective well-being as a key outcome in their local area. [90157]

**Anne Milton:** Health and wellbeing boards will make decisions locally on key priorities through joint strategic needs assessments (JSNAs) and joint health and wellbeing strategies. They will decide locally how best to monitor delivery of these priorities.

Statutory guidance on JSNAs and joint health and wellbeing strategies will emphasise the importance of understanding and addressing the needs of children and young people; and health and wellbeing boards will have a statutory duty to involve local people, including young people in developing JSNAs and joint health and wellbeing strategies.

The director of children's services will be a statutory member of the health and wellbeing board to ensure the needs of children are taken into account. Local HealthWatch will also use their membership on health and wellbeing boards to help ensure the voices of the whole community, including young people, are fed in.

Nationally, we have development work underway to improve the data collected on child health so the national health service and public health outcomes frameworks as they develop can better drive improvements for children's wellbeing.

## Circle Health

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have had with representatives of Circle Health. [89602]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations, and of hospitality received by special advisers, are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

## Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89394]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There are three full-time equivalent speechwriters employed by the Department. One grade 6, one grade 7 and one higher executive officer.

## Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89393]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department does not issue guidance to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. Executive non-departmental public bodies are independent bodies, established through legislation. As such they employ non civil servants on their staff and determine their own employment terms and conditions. On the employment of unpaid interns they will be guided by relevant legislation and comply with employment law.

## Employment Agencies

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [87996]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following table sets out information from the Department's central procurement system on core Department of Health spend on recruitment agencies from 1 September to 30 November 2011.

*Sum of invoice accounted amount excluding VAT*

£

| | *Invoice accounted period* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Supplier name* | *1 September 2011* | *1 October 2011* | *1 November 2011* | *Total* |
| Badenoch and Clark Ltd | 29,636.26 | 266,234.72 | 91,868.58 | 387,739.56 |

*Sum of invoice accounted amount excluding VAT*

| | *Invoice accounted period* | | | *£* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Supplier name* | *1 September 2011* | *1 October 2011* | *1 November 2011* | *Total* |
| Brook Street UK Ltd | 16,362.96 | 27,349.68 | 13,498.46 | 57,211.10 |
| Capita Resourcing Ltd | 31,858.38 | 34,513.84 | 38,825.76 | 105,197.98 |
| Capita SHG Resourcing | 32,932.90 | 38,308.00 | 8,380.00 | 79,620.90 |
| Elan Computing | 5,160.78 | 6,518.88 | 0.00 | 11,679.66 |
| Hays Specialist Recruitment Ltd | 247,601.54 | 238,774.49 | 309,110.43 | 795,486.46 |
| Kelly Services UK Ltd | 16,204.88 | 8,840.81 | 8,125.65 | 33,171.34 |
| Northgate HR Ltd | 22,080.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 22,080.50 |
| Northgate UK Ltd | 111,376.32 | 141,967.68 | 0.00 | 253,344.00 |
| Office Angels Ltd | 5,795.61 | 4,144.36 | 14,894.93 | 24,834.90 |
| Parity Resources Ltd | 119,506.53 | 210,940.27 | 175,085.99 | 505,532.79 |
| Randstad Interim Executives | 91,166.00 | 56,399.20 | 71,440.90 | 219,006.10 |
| Reed Specialist Recruitment Ltd | 97,921.21 | 40,639.41 | 36,801.15 | 175,361.77 |
| Sand Resources Ltd | 104,611.91 | 112,308.56 | 104,923.36 | 321,843.83 |
| Stopgap Group Ltd | 7,954.91 | 0.00 | 3,880.44 | 11,835.35 |
| Tate | 5,808.63 | 7,886.29 | 15,077.17 | 28,772.09 |
| Venn Group Ltd | 80,964.22 | 21,150.00 | 11,306.02 | 113,420.24 |
| Total | 1,026,943.54 | 1,215,976.19 | 903,218.84 | 3,146,138.57 |

The following table sets out information on Connecting for Health spend on recruitment agencies from 1 September to 30 November 2011.

*Sum of invoice accounted amount excluding VAT*

| | *Invoice accounted period* | | | *£* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Supplier name* | *1 September 2011* | *1 October 2011* | *1 November 2011* | *Total* |
| Michael Page International | 12,010.25 | 2,447.63 | 489.53 | 14,947.41 |
| Hayes Specialist Recruitment | 0.00 | 4,569.00 | 913.80 | 5,482.80 |
| Total | 12,010.25 | 7,016.63 | 1,403.33 | 20,430.21 |

*Notes:*

1. September 2011 amounts contains two actual invoices and VAT adjustments for prior months invoices.
2. November 2011 amount shows VAT adjustments for prior month invoices.

## EU Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which EU *(a)* Directives, *(b)* Regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89683]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department is responsible for the transposition of the following European Union legislation into UK law:

*Directive 2010/53/EU (Organ transplantation)*

Organ Directive 2010/53/EU on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation requires transposition by 27 August 2012. The initial total estimated setup cost for the public sector (NHS both centrally and at transplant centres) is £2.758 million, with an ongoing cost over a 10-year period of around £1.605 million per year. Over the same period, the set-up cost for the private sector has been estimated at £300,000 with an annual ongoing cost of £345,000. The Department has recently carried out an external consultation on a proposed implementation approach for the Organ Directive. Cost estimates will be reviewed in light of responses received.

*Directive 2011/62/EU (Falsified Medicines)*

We plan to implement Directive 2011/62/EU on 2 January 2013. The costs of the implementation of the Falsified Medicines Directive are still to be assessed and assumptions will be included in an impact assessment as part of our consultation process on the directive.

*Directive 2010/84/EU (Pharmacovigilance)*

We plan to implement Directive 2010/84/EU amending, as regards pharmacovigilance, Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use on 21 July 2012. A preliminary assessment of the costs of the directive has been made in a current public consultation. This assessment identifies annual net cost to UK business at £0.8 million (annual costs £4.5 million, annual benefits £3.7 million) and annual cost to the public sector at £2.6 million.

*Directive 2011/24/EU (Cross Border healthcare)*

We plan to implement Directive 2011/24/EU on Cross Border Healthcare allowing EU citizens to seek planned healthcare treatment in other EU member states on 25 October 2013. Associated costs have not yet been estimated, and will be included in an impact assessment as part of the Department of Health consultation process planned for the summer of 2012.

## Family Planning: Finance

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on family planning services in *(a)* Poplar and Limehouse constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [89867]

**Anne Milton:** Funding for sexual health services, including family planning services, forms part of the allocations made to primary care trusts (PCTs).

The Department does not collect information on PCT spending on family planning services.

### General Practitioners

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 602W, on clinical commissioning groups, if he will publish his estimates of the running costs of shadow clinical commissioning groups; and by what means his Department took into account variations of running costs across the country in its proposal for a flat rate of £25 a head in running costs. [89718]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The running cost allowance for clinical commissioning groups will be part of the 2012-13 shadow allocations for clinical commissioning groups, which will be issued early in 2012, and the actual allocations to clinical commissioning groups for 2013-14 will be made before the end of 2012.

We have considered variations of existing running costs across the country and have determined that the clinical commissioning group running cost envelope of £25 per head is the optimal allowance.

### Health Services: Accidents

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse incidents were recorded in the NHS in each of the last two years. [89719]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information on adverse incidents in the national health service is recorded and reported on a number of different systems, depending on the nature of the incident. Such information that is available nationally for the last two complete financial years is provided as follows. Incidents may be recorded and reported on more than one system. Further information on adverse incidents recorded in the NHS, that is not collected nationally, may be available from individual NHS organisations.

The National Patient Safety Agency collects reports of patient safety incidents through the National Reporting and Learning System.

In 2009-10, 1,053,758 incidents were reported.

In 2010-11,1,145,290 incidents were reported.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) collects data on adverse drug reactions (ADRs) through the Yellow Card scheme. As the Yellow Card scheme collects data for the United Kingdom is not possible to determine the number of reports originating from the English NHS.

In 2009-10, the MHRA received a total of 23,966 suspected ADR reports and of these 10,465 (43.7%) were received directly from health professionals.

In 2010-11 the MHRA received a total of 25,793 suspected ADR reports and of these 11,419 (44.3%) were received directly from health professionals.

The MHRA also collects data on incidents involving medical devices through the Medical Device Adverse Incident Centre database.

In 2009-10, 3,139 incidents involving medical devices were reported.

In 2010-11, 3,162 incidents involving medical devices were reported.

The Department of Health's Defects and Failures reporting system for non-medical equipment and services receives reports of incidents involving non-medical devices, plants and equipment.

In 2009-10,16 incidents were reported.

In 2010-11, 27 incidents were reported.

The Human Tissue Authority collects data on serious adverse events and reactions in relation to two areas: incidents relating to post mortems; and incidents relating to human applications.

In 2009-10,124 incidents were reported relating to human applications.

In 2010-11,126 incidents were reported relating to human applications.

In 2009-10, 34 incidents were reported relating to post mortems.

In 2010-11, 55 incidents were reported relating to post mortems.

NHS Protect collate figures on reported physical assaults against NHS staff in England.

In 2009-10, 56,718 physical assaults were reported.

In 2010-11, 57,830 physical assaults were reported.

### Health Services: Foreign Nationals

**Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much is owed to the NHS by foreign Governments for emergency care of their citizens in *(a)* Huddersfield and Calderdale Primary Care Trust and *(b)* nationally; [89492]

(2) how much was recovered from foreign Governments for emergency treatment of their citizens in *(a)* Huddersfield and Calderdale Primary Care Trust and *(b)* the NHS nationally in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011. [89493]

**Anne Milton:** Under domestic legislation, access to accident and emergency treatment is free of charge to individuals in the United Kingdom, regardless of nationality. However, under European Union rules, members states must reimburse each other for healthcare provided to their citizens as either temporary visitors accessing emergency care via the European Health Insurance Card, workers posted by an employer from one country to another, state pensioners, those accessing elective treatment in another country at the cost of their home country and dependents of these categories.

The following table shows how much, in total, has been paid to the United Kingdom, by European Economic Area (EEA) countries for years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

It is not possible to break the figures down to cover emergency care only, or by geographical area.

| | *Payments received by the United Kingdom (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 33,100,000 |
| 2009-10 | 40,500,000 |
| 2010-11 | 51,700,000 |

Visitors from non-EEA Countries (other than where a reciprocal agreement exists) are charged for any emergency treatment that is provided outside of the Accident and Emergency Unit of a hospital. In such cases, the patient, rather than their Government is financially liable.

**Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign nationals received emergency care in *(a)* Huddersfield and Calderdale Primary Care Trust and *(b)* the NHS in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011. [89494]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not collected in the format requested at primary care trust (PCT) level. Available data relates only to foreign residents who are temporarily visiting the United Kingdom, not all foreign nationals.

The most relevant available data for Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust Accident and Emergency (A and E) are as follows:

*Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust*

| | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| A and E attendances by foreign residents | 12 | 21 | 8 |
| Total A and E attendances | 130,906 | 134,532 | 58,955 |
| Foreign residents as percentage total A and E attendances | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 |

*England*

| | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| A and E attendances by foreign residents | 130,603 | 75,704 | 40,145 |
| Total A and E attendances | 15,569,736 | 16,241,015 | 7,214,114 |
| Foreign residents as percentage total A and E attendances | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.6 |

[1] 2011-12 data to date (April to August).

*Notes:*

1. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data is four months in arrears.
2. HES definition of foreign residents includes Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

**Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which five countries the highest number of foreign nationals sought emergency treatment by the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* Huddersfield and Calderdale primary care trust in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011. [89715]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not centrally collected.

Nationality is not recorded on Hospital Episode Statistics which is the data source used for accident and emergency attendance analysis. The only relevant data category is 'foreign', but this is not broken down further.

### Health Services: Human Trafficking

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is provided to NHS staff on recognising potential victims of human trafficking. [89507]

**Anne Milton:** The Government published their Human Trafficking Strategy "Human Trafficking—The Government's Strategy" in July 2011. It contains commitments that will help support frontline staff, including healthcare professionals, to improve victim care as well as enhance their ability to respond early, or even before harm has occurred.

Multi-agency guidance for all frontline practitioners on meeting the needs of trafficked people was issued in October 2009. The "Trafficking Toolkit: Tackling Trafficking" includes a specific section frontline health practitioners on how to identify and respond to the needs of trafficking victims more effectively, including those that might not present immediately.

### Health Services: Older People

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital were recorded from a *(a)* nursing home and *(b)* residential care home for people aged over 74 in each primary care trust in the last year for which figures are available. [89912]

**Paul Burstow:** The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care collects data on finished admission episodes as part of Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). HES data on the number of finished admission episodes for those aged over 74, by source of admission and primary care trust of residence, for the year 2010-11, has been placed in the Library.

### Hearing Impairment: Somerset

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on deaf and hard of hearing children and young people in Somerset. [89489]

**Anne Milton:** The NHS Information Centre for health and social care holds the following information on behalf of the Department on deaf or hard of hearing children and young people in Somerset.

The number of people aged 0 to 17 on the registers of the deaf and hard of hearing as at 31 March 2007 and 2010, as set out in table 1. This data collection began in 1983 and previous collections are also held by the NHS Information Centre. The registers for 2001 and 2004 are available on the Department website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalsocialcare/DH_4095911

The number of people aged 0 to 17 on the register of blind and partially sighted persons with an additional disability of 'deaf with speech', 'deaf without speech' or 'hard of hearing' as at 31 March 2006, 2008 and 2011, as set out in table 2. This data collection began in 1973 and previous collections are also held by the NHS Information Centre. The registers for 2000 and 2003 are available on the Department website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalsocialcare/DH_4095911

Information on hospital episodes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing is also held by the NHS Information Centre as part of the Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) collection. HES may be able to provide information relating to episodes, appointments or attendances where the reason for attendance is related to a hearing problem but does not hold information on deaf or hard of hearing patients that are seen at hospital. This information is being collated and will be placed in the Library.

*Table 1: Number of people aged 0 to 17 years on the register of deaf or hard of hearing within Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset primary care trust (PCT) areas as at 31 March 2007 and 2010*

| | *2007* | | *2010* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Register of deaf* | *Register of hard of hearing* | *Register of deaf* | *Register of hard of hearing* |
| Somerset PCT | 40 | 85 | — | 5 |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | — | 0 | — | 0 |
| North Somerset PCT | — | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are provided as in the original publications; numbers less than six are suppressed and represented as a dash on the table. Larger numbers are rounded to the nearest five.

2. Data on the number of people registered as deaf or hard of hearing in England was compiled from the 'SSDA910 Register of People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing' return; data were submitted every three years as at 31 March by Councils with Social Services Responsibilities (CSSRs) to the NHS Information Centre. This collection has now ceased following consultation, in September 2011.

3. Under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, councils are required to compile and maintain classified registers of 'persons who are blind, deaf or dumb and other persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury, or congenital deformity.

4. Although there are no formal examination procedures for determining whether a person is deaf or hard of hearing for the purposes of section 29, cases should be classified as follows:

Deaf: Those who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing.

Hard of Hearing: Those who (with or without a hearing aid) have some useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by speech, listening and lip reading.

5. Since registration is voluntary, these figures will not provide a complete picture of the number of people aged 0 to 17 years in Somerset who are deaf or hard of hearing.

6. People who are registered as deaf or hard of hearing that are also blind or partially sighted are recorded on the register of blind and partially sighted persons (SSDA 902 form) and are therefore not included in these figures.

*Source:*

Registers of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons—SSDA 910 form

*Table 2: Number of people aged 0-17 years registered blind or partially sighted who also have a hearing impairment within Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset primary care trust (PCT) areas as at 31 March 2006, 2008 and 2011*

| | | *Additional disability* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Of which:* | | |
| | | *Deaf* | *With speech* | *Without speech* | *Hard of Hearing* |
| *Blind with hearing impairment* | | | | | |
| 2011 | Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | North Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 | Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | North Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | Somerset PCT | — | 0 | — | — |
| | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | North Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Partially sighted with hearing impairment* | | | | | |
| 2011 | Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | North Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 | Somerset PCT | — | — | 0 | 5 |
| | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | North Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | — |
| | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table 2: Number of people aged 0-17 years registered blind or partially sighted who also have a hearing impairment within Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset primary care trust (PCT) areas as at 31 March 2006, 2008 and 2011*

| | | | *Additional disability* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | *Of which:* | | |
| | | | *Deaf* | *With speech* | *Without speech* | *Hard of Hearing* |
| | North Somerset PCT | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are provided as in the original publications; numbers less than six are suppressed and represented as a dash on the table. Larger numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
2. In England these data are compiled from the triennial return SSDA 902 submitted by councils with social services responsibilities to the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.
3. The SSDA 902 collection was brought forward by a year for collection in 2008, due to concerns regarding the fall in the number of people newly registered as blind and partially sighted between March 2003 and March 2006. This meant there was no collection in 2009.
4. Registration of blindness is voluntary and so cannot be thought of as providing a definitive number of blind and partially sighted people. However, it is a pre-condition for the receipt of certain financial benefits. It is this factor which gives greater credibility to the "Register of the Blind" than to the "Register of the Partially Sighted" and to other disability registration records maintained by councils, where the voluntary principle also applies. Registration is not, however, a pre-requisite for certain social services concessions and this factor, combined with uncertainties about the regularity with which the councils review and update their records, makes it difficult to assign a degree of reliability to either of these registers.
5. The statistics relating to blind persons who have an additional disability is likely to understate the true numbers, especially in respect of those aged under 16. This is partly because there is no advantage to the blind person in being registered as having additional disabilities. There may also be reluctance to register pre-school children as blind until they attain age five, which would affect the figures for this particular age group.
6. Statutory guidance under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 was issued in 2001 to councils with social services responsibilities on deafblind registration in response to concerns highlighted by the Department of Health's consultation exercise which looked at social care services for deafblind people. Where there was information on additional disabilities for people having multiple disabilities including deaf or hard of hearing, councils were advised to count these under the category of deaf or hard of hearing. This could lead to a bias towards deaf or hard of hearing disabilities.
7. For people to be registered as severely or partially sight impaired they must first undergo an examination by a consultant ophthalmologist. The consultant records his or her findings on the certificate of visual impairment (CVI) formerly the BD8, on which the consultant also certifies whether or not the person meets the statutory definition of blindness or the non-statutory definition of partial sight.
8. The statutory definition of blindness is that a person should be "so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential". The statutory definition of partial sight is that a person should be "substantially and permanently disabled by defective vision caused by congenital defect, illness or injury".
9. The definition for the groupings of additional disabilities is given as follows:

People who are deaf without speech: Those who have no useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by signs, finger spelling or writing.

People who are deaf with speech: Those who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing but whose normal method of communication is by speech and lip-reading.

Hard of hearing people: Those who (with or without a hearing aid) have some useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by speech, listening and lip-reading.

10. While the Department of Health commissions the collecting of information from the Registers of Blind and Partially Sighted for both adults and children, overall responsibility for children's social services lies with the Department for Education.
11. Prior to 2006 the additional disabilities categories of 'People who are deaf with speech' and 'People who are deaf without speech' were collected as one group: 'People who are deaf'.

*Source:*

Register of blind and partially-sighted persons—SSDA 902 form.

### Hinchingbrooke Hospital

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how *(a)* surplus, *(b)* capital expenditure and *(c)* depreciation will be calculated at Hinchingbrooke hospital under the terms of the contract with Circle Health; [89543]

(2) whether the contract with Circle Health to manage Hinchingbrooke hospital includes any separate provision for management, administration or running costs other than tariff or contract income; [89544]

(3) whether any *(a)* price adjustments and *(b)* guaranteed patient volumes have been agreed as part of the contract with Circle Health to run Hinchingbrooke hospital; [89545]

(4) what incentives are included in the contract with Circle Health to run Hinchingbrooke hospital for collaboration with local commissioners and other local health and social care providers to provide integrated pathways of care; [89546]

(5) what *(a)* legal and *(b)* contractual duties have been placed on Hinchingbrooke hospital for collaboration with the local health service during the terms of the contract with Circle Heath; [89547]

(6) whether any surpluses over £2 million generated during the running of Hinchingbrooke hospital by Circle Health will be shared; whether any sharing will take place on an annual or cumulative basis; and whether there will be a cap on total profits; [89549]

(7) whether the NHS Trust for Hinchingbrooke hospital during its operation by Circle Health will be subject to the provisions of the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act 2000, *(b)* Equalities Act 2010 and *(c)* other statutory duties placed upon public bodies; [89550]

(8) whether the Circle Health management board for Hinchingbrooke hospital will meet in public; [89551]

(9) what contingency plans his Department has made in respect of the future financial viability of Circle Health to operate Hinchingbrooke hospital; [89598]

(10) whether his Department has requested a capital deposit from Circle Health in respect of the operation of Hinchingbrooke hospital; [89599]

(11) whether Monitor has requested a capital deposit from Circle Health in respect of its operation of Hinchingbrooke hospital; [89600]

(12) what projections his Department has prepared in respect of future throughput of patients at Hinchingbrooke hospital; [89603]

(13) whether there is a break clause in the contract with Circle Health to operate Hinchingbrooke hospital; and what the cost to *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* Circle Health would be of ending the contract mid-term; [89604]

(14) what contingency plan he has put in place to deal with a *(a)* financial and *(b)* clinical failure during the operation of Hinchingbrooke hospital by Circle Health; [89605]

(15) what incentives are included in arrangements with Circle Health to operate Hinchingbrooke hospital to minimise any loses over £5 million during the term of the contract. [89606]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The contract to manage Hinchingbrooke hospital is between Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust, Circle Hinchingbrooke Limited, Circle Holdings plc and East of England Strategic Health Authority (now part of NHS Midlands and East). Based on advice from the NHS Midlands and East, we can confirm the following:

Surplus, capital expenditure and depreciation will be calculated at Hinchingbrooke hospital as they are currently, that is, through normal accounting practice. The trust will continue to operate as a national health service body.

The franchise agreement with Circle Health to manage Hinchingbrooke hospital allows Circle Health to receive a share of the operating surplus generated by the trust. A surplus would also be used to repay historic debt. The operating costs of the trust are not part of the franchise agreement.

Price adjustments and guaranteed patient volumes are not part of the contract with Circle Health to run Hinchingbrooke hospital. The trust will be paid at tariff, as for all NHS district general hospitals. The patient volumes relate to existing contractual arrangements between NHS Cambridgeshire and the trust.

It is for local commissioners to work with local health and social care providers to design integrated services, and the franchise with Circle Health will support services to be delivered from Hinchingbrooke hospital in this way.

The trust continues to operate under its existing legal and contractual duties, which will include collaborations with the local health services. Circle Health, as the franchisee, will be part of this collaboration.

Surpluses over £2 million will be shared between Circle Health and the trust. Sharing will take place on an annual basis, subject to audited accounts. There is no cap on total profit.

The trust remains responsible for governance of the hospital, and is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Equalities Act 2010 and other statutory duties placed upon public bodies.

The Trust board will continue to meet in public. Circle Health's executive team will attend these meetings as required.

The Department has made no contingency plans in respect of the future financial viability of Circle Health to operate Hinchingbrooke hospital. Circle Health is an Alternative Investment Market listed company and provision is included within the franchise agreement for an annual review of its financial liability.

Neither the Department nor Monitor requested a capital deposit from Circle Health in respect of the operation of Hinchingbrooke hospital. As part of the contract, Circle Health will provide working capital contributions of up to £5 million in aggregate, if required.

The Department has not prepared projections in respect of future throughput of patients at Hinchingbrooke hospital. As part of the normal planning process, NHS Cambridgeshire is discussing its commissioned activity as part of ongoing contract negotiations with the trust. There is no demand guarantee included in these negotiations.

There is no break clause in the contract with Circle Health to operate Hinchingbrooke hospital. The trust may terminate the contract without cause giving 12 months' written notice, and the trust shall pay up to £10 million in compensation. The trust may terminate the contract without compensation if there is, among other things, a material breach of the contract that is incapable of remedy. Circle can terminate the contract without payment if, among other things, the trust commits a material breach of the contract.

Circle cannot though terminate without trust fault or a breach of the contract. Were it to cease to perform the contract Circle would be in breach and the NHS would seek damages. Such damages have not been predetermined and would have regard to the harm done to NHS interests.

The Department has not made a contingency plan to deal with a financial and clinical failure during the operation of Hinchingbrooke hospital by Circle Health. Circle Health has agreed to make working capital contributions of up to £5 million in aggregate, should the hospital fall into deficit as part of the transformation. The contract allows this figure to be renegotiated as part of the annual budget process. Should the working capital amount be exceeded, the contract allows either party to terminate. Extreme clinical failure is a breach of contract, and therefore the agreement would be terminated.

No specific incentives are included in arrangements with Circle Health to minimise any losses over £5 million during the term of the contract. It is in Circle Health's interest to minimise losses, as their success depends upon surpluses being generated.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS Trust for Hinchingbrooke Hospital plans to pursue its application for Foundation Trust status; what the timetable is for any conversion to Foundation Trust status; whether there will be any differences in the process followed; and what consultation he has had with Monitor on this issue. [89553]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Hinchingbrooke Hospital NHS Trust is expected to become, or become part of, a national health service foundation trust. There is currently no agreed timetable for this, which will be determined ahead of the end of the franchise contract when it is anticipated the trust will be ready to move forward to foundation trust status.

All future applicants for foundation trust status will follow the current process to apply to Monitor. There will be no lowering of the standards required to achieve foundation trust status. Through regular meetings with Monitor, (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts), the Department is assured that Monitor is aware of the trust's current position.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Circle Health will be liable for UK taxation in respect of any profits resulting from its operation of Hinchingbrooke Hospital. [89601]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Treasury.

UK resident companies are chargeable to corporation tax on their taxable profits arising in the UK. I am unable to comment on the affairs of specific taxpayers as this information is held by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs on a confidential basis.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to review guidance issued to NHS Acute Trusts and Foundation Trusts on screening programmes for hospital acquired infections; and what his policy is on the governance of any such reviews; [89352]

(2) whether his Department plans to consult on guidelines issued to NHS Acute Trusts and Foundation Trusts on screening programmes for hospital acquired infections. [89353]

**Mr Simon Burns:** National health service trusts and foundation trusts are required to screen all relevant admissions for Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. The policy recognises that there are some areas of clinical care where it is not appropriate or cost effective to screen. The Department's guidance therefore asked NHS organisations to develop local clinical protocols, based on learning from within their own area, that provide for clinical and cost effective screening practices.

The Department has commissioned an independent review of the local implementation (clinical and cost-effectiveness, and impact on patient management) of the current guidance. This audit is being undertaken by University college London and the Health Protection Agency. As part of this process, all infection control teams in NHS acute trusts in England were invited to submit data as part of a national one week prevalence audit between 9 and 15 May 2011.

The final report on the audit will be submitted to the Department's expert advisory committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections (ARHAI) in the spring to consider the findings, along with other available evidence. ARHAI will then advise the Department if the existing departmental guidance needs to be updated.

### Hospitals: Management

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the prospects for future franchises of hospital management services. [89540]

**Mr Simon Burns:** As part of the commitment for all the remaining national health service trusts to achieve foundation trust status, tripartite formal agreements have been established that set out each organisations plan to deliver this requirement. For a number of NHS trusts the agreement confirms that the organisation has determined they are not viable in their current organisational form and sets out the actions they need to take to establish sustainable provision of high quality healthcare services in some other organisational form. Within these agreements no NHS trusts currently have plans to use the franchising of management to support the achievement of foundation trust status.

### Industrial Accidents

**Sir Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated in accident and emergency departments for injuries sustained in the workplace in each of the last five years; and how many were treated at Colchester General Hospital for such injuries. [89288]

**Mr Simon Burns:** These data are not centrally collected. The closest available data indicate from where a patient has been referred to accident and emergency (A&E), but not where the injury occurred. These data are only available from 2007-08 to present. The data are as follows:

*Table 1: England total A&E attendances and total referrals from work*

| | *England—total A&E attendances* | *England—referral from work* | *Referral of work as a percentage of total attendances* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 12,318,051 | 98,026 | 0.80 |
| 2008-09 | 13,794,072 | 99,746 | 0.72 |
| 2009-10 | 15,569,736 | 98,899 | 0.64 |
| 2010-11 | 16,241,015 | 98,076 | 0.60 |
| 2011-12[1] | 7,213,285 | 37,419 | 0.52 |

Data is not available for Colchester General Hospital in isolation, but is available for Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust:

*Table 2: Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust total A&E attendances and total referrals from work*

| | *Colchester—total A&E attendances* | *Colchester—referral from work* | *Referral of work as a percentage of total attendances* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 89,079 | 208 | 0.23 |
| 2008-09 | 93,908 | 135 | 0.14 |
| 2009-10 | 71,978 | 55 | 0.08 |
| 2010-11 | 72,330 | 44 | 0.06 |
| 2011-12[1] | 31,416 | 11 | 0.04 |

[1] 2011-12 data is to date (April to August).

*Note:*

Data is four months in arrears

### Medical Treatments

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications were made by clinicians to North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust's (PCT) Exceptions Panel for treatment or drugs which are not normally commissioned or paid for by the PCT in the last year for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were *(a)* accepted without qualification, *(b)* accepted in part or with qualification and *(c)* rejected. [89444]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is not centrally held. The Department does not collect information on individual funding requests made to primary care trusts (PCTs). The hon. Member may wish to write to North Yorkshire and York PCT, which may hold some relevant information.

### NHS

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the relationship is between his Department and NHS Shared Business Services. [89911]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department owns 50% of NHS Shared Business Services, with a senior departmental official on the board of directors.

### NHS: Negligence

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence proceedings have been brought against the NHS in the last 12 months; and to which types of adverse incident each relate. [89720]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is in the following table:

*Number of clinical negligence claims where proceedings were issued during 2011*

| | *Claim notified to NHS litigation authority* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Injury* | *Before 2011* | *During 2011* | *Total* |
| Addiction/dependency | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Additional/unnecessary operation(s) | 159 | 159 | 318 |
| Advanced stage cancer | 16 | 19 | 35 |
| Amputation—lower | 38 | 29 | 67 |
| Amputation—upper | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Anal fissure | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Anaphylactic shock/ allergic shock/allergy | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Aneurysm | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Arterial damage | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Benign tumour | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Bile duct damage | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Bladder damage | 14 | 16 | 30 |
| Blindness | 20 | 10 | 30 |
| Bodily harm/murder | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Bowel damage/ dysfunction | 31 | 27 | 58 |
| Brain damage | 80 | 33 | 113 |
| Bruising/extravasation | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Burn(s) | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Cancer | 14 | 23 | 37 |
| Cardiac arrest | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Cardiovascular condition | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Cerebral palsy | 73 | 8 | 81 |
| Chronic fatigue syndrome | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Compartment syndrome | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| Cosmetic disfigurement | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| Cystic growth | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Deafness | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Decompression illness | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Dental damage | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| Developmental delay | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Dislocation | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Down's syndrome | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Epilepsy | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Erb's palsy | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| Failed sterilization | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Fatality | 121 | 155 | 276 |
| Fistula | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Foot drop | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Fracture | 43 | 40 | 83 |
| HIV | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Hernia | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Hospital acquired infection | 3 | 17 | 20 |
| Impotence | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Incontinence | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Infectious diseases | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Infertility | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Joint damage | 20 | 30 | 50 |
| Limb deformity | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Liver damage | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Liver transplant | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Loss of baby | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Loss of kidney | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Loss of sexual function | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Loss of/damage to breast | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Lung disease | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Malignant tumour | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Malnutrition | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Meningitis | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Multiple disabilities | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Multiple injuries | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Nerve damage | 54 | 61 | 115 |
| Not specified | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Osteoporosis | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Other | 10 | 12 | 22 |
| Other infection | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| Other visual problems | 21 | 24 | 45 |
| Paraplegia | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| Partial hearing loss | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Partial paralysis | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Perforation | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| Peritonitis | 2 | 10 | 12 |
| Poor outcome—fractures etc. | 73 | 44 | 117 |
| Pressure sores | 19 | 15 | 34 |
| Psychiatric/ psychological damage | 42 | 58 | 100 |
| Radiation exposure | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Reduced life expectancy | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Removal of fallopian tube | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Removal of testicle | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Renal damage/failure | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Respiratory disorder/ failure | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Rupture | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Scarring | 11 | 12 | 23 |
| Spinal damage | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Stillborn | 14 | 7 | 21 |
| Stroke | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Tendon damage | 12 | 6 | 18 |
| Tetraplegia/ quadriplegia | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Thrombosis/embolism | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| Thyroid condition | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Tissue damage | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Tuberculosis | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Unknown | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Unnecessary pain | 128 | 174 | 302 |
| Unwanted pregnancy | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Wrongful birth | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Total | 1,250 | 1,195 | 2,445 |

*Source:*
NHS Litigation Authority.

## NHS: Redundancy Pay

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on gagging clauses imposed on NHS employees as part of severance agreements; and if he will make a statement. [89856]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department does not routinely monitor the use of confidentiality clauses in compromise agreements. The Department's guidance, contained within the health circulars HSC 2004/001 for national health service managers and HSC 1999/198 for all employees, does not prevent the use of confidentiality clauses per se.

However, the guidance does state that NHS employers must consider with their legal advisers whether such a clause is necessary in the circumstances of each case and that if such a clause is included within a particular agreement that it complies with their various statutory obligations regarding the treatment of confidential information, including the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. Sir David Nicholson the NHS Chief Executive, wrote on 11 January 2012 to NHS chief executives and HR managers reminding them of their obligations under HSC 1999/198.

Before an employee considers signing a compromise agreement, which may or may not contain a confidentiality clause, the employer is required to pay for the employee to have independent legal advice on the terms of the agreement.

### NHS: Reorganisation

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to place a cap on the liabilities of all private health providers under his proposals for the future of the NHS. [89542]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We have no plans for such a cap. The Government's aim is for equivalent safeguards to be in place for patients irrespective of who provides their NHS services. The national health service standard contract would require all providers of NHS services to provide equivalent indemnities in relation to clinical negligence and other potential losses.

The Department will therefore be asking the NHS Litigation Authority for advice on options for modifying the existing Clinical Negligence Scheme for trusts to enable all providers of NHS services to be members.

### NHS: Standards

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on how quickly a bed bound hospital patient should receive assistance to clear up a burst stoma bag that could infect a wound from a recent operation. [90442]

**Anne Milton:** All care staff should ensure that the comfort, dignity and safety of their patients is maintained at all times.

### Nurses

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients a nurse on an adult acute *(a)* medical and *(b)* surgical hospital ward should be responsible for checking each hour; [89998]

(2) what assessment he has made of which *(a)* administration procedures, *(b)* targets and *(c)* form filling should be discontinued from the duties of an acute hospital nurse; [89999]

(3) what his policy is on the nurse to patient ratio on acute adult hospital wards. [90000]

**Anne Milton:** Encouraging nurses to carry out hourly ward rounds is about showing staff what is already working in some places and what the rest can do to achieve the level of the best. The newly established independent Nursing and Care Quality Forum will be tasked with ensuring the best nursing practice, including hourly nursing rounds, is spread throughout the national health service and social care.

Rolling out the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement's Productive Series 'Releasing Time to Care' initiative will help free nurses from non-essential paperwork and excessive bureaucracy, that add little or no value to patient care, enabling them to spend more time with their patients. This has already helped staff in more than half of acute trusts to spend extra time with patients. A "red-tape challenge" will be introduced to identify barriers to preventing nurses from doing their job properly and remove them.

### Plastic Surgery

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers he has to compel private clinics to contact women patients concerned about implants manufactured by Poly Implant Prothese to offer them screening and advice free of charge. [89282]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We expect all providers of health care to comply with their ethical and legal obligations towards the patients in their charge, including offering advice in the event of actual or potential adverse reactions to treatment. In addition, all doctors working for such clinics have specific ethical duties under the General Medical Council's ethical code "Good medical practice".

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of women who have had breast implants manufactured by Poly Implant Prothese implanted in *(a)* NHS or *(b)* private hospitals. [89283]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Based on the information so far available to the Department, our best estimate is that 40,000 women in the United Kingdom received Poly Implant Prothese silicone breast implants, of whom no more than 3,000 were treated in the national health service. We are seeking more robust information from NHS hospitals and private clinics and will update these estimates if necessary.

### Suicide

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of *(a)* applied suicide intervention skills training and *(b)* trauma risk management; and if he will make a statement. [89377]

**Anne Milton:** The Department has made no such assessment; the content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies for the health care professions.

Through their role as the custodians of quality standards in education and practice, the profession regulators are committed to ensuring high quality patient care delivered by high quality health professionals and that health care professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deal with the problems and conditions they will encounter in practice.

The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not made any formal assessment of

Trauma Risk Management (TRiM). The TRiM concept is that of a peer-developed support programme for personnel who have experienced a traumatic event. It does not in itself constitute a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder or any other mental health problem. Instead, it is used to identify the signs and symptoms of stress at an early stage. The ultimate aim is to detect that small percentage of personnel who require additional help and advise them of where they can get the help they need.

TRiM is widely used by the Ministry of Defence to help identify stress-related issues which personnel may have encountered while on operations. It is also now widely implemented across other public and private sector employers whose personnel may encounter traumatic situations at work.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices: Ashfield

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies in Ashfield constituency will receive additional incentive payments to take on 18 to 24 year olds in apprenticeships. [89472]

**Mr Hayes** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The Apprenticeship programme is demand led and take-up of apprenticeships by area depends on employer demand. We are therefore unable to provide estimates of the geographical distribution of those companies which will benefit from the incentive payments which the Government announced in November.

Nationally we plan to make 40,000 incentive payments available for small companies who are not currently engaged in the Apprenticeships programme who take on their first apprentices aged 16-24. The National Apprenticeship Service is currently working up a detailed delivery plan and companies will be able to benefit by April this year.

### Pub Companies

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable he has set for the introduction of measures to improve competition in the pub and hospitality industry. [90201]

**Mr Davey:** The Government have not introduced any measures to improve competition in the pub and hospitality industry. The Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) final decision on CAMRA's super-complaint, published in October 2010, found no evidence of competition problems that are having a significant adverse impact on consumers in the pub industry.

The timetable for the introduction of the Government's reforms to improve transparency, fairness and dispute resolution for licensees is set out in the Government's response to the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee's report on Pub Companies.

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8222/8222.pdf

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of *(a)* self-regulation on beer ties and *(b)* competition in the pub and hospitality industry. [90203]

**Mr Davey:** The Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) final decision on CAMRA's super-complaint, published in October 2010, found no evidence of competition problems that are having a significant adverse impact on consumers in the pub industry.

The Government consider that the previous system of self-regulation in the pub industry was inadequate. That is why they have introduced a tough new self-regulatory system, including strengthening the Industry Framework Code, making it legally binding and establishing an independent conciliation and arbitration service to resolve disputes between pubcos and licensees.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of beer ties on competition in the hospitality industry. [90204]

**Mr Davey:** The Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) final decision on CAMRA's super-complaint, published in October 2010, found no evidence of competition problems that are having a significant adverse impact on consumers in the pub industry.

### Biofuels: Research

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support research and development in the biogas sector. [86193]

**Mr Paice:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Government support a range of research and development relevant to biogas, and publish this through the Biogas portal website:

http://www.biogas-info.co.uk/index.php/find-ad-reports.html

In April 2011, DEFRA published an assessment of research on anaerobic digestion (AD) and the evidence gaps that remain:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/documents/wr1311-ad-gapanalysis.pdf

In addition, DEFRA's AD strategy and action plan sets out how the Government and industry are working together to address these gaps and other barriers to increasing production of biogas from waste. In particular, DEFRA has launched an Innovation Fund to optimise anaerobic digestion plants and reduce the costs and complexity of small scale AD plants.

### Breathalysers

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage Germany to adopt specifications agreed by the Organisation of Legal Metrology on breath alcohol analysis equipment, including a breath temperature correction feature. [87437]

**Mr Willetts:** I have not taken any steps to encourage Germany to adopt specifications agreed by the International Organisation of Legal Metrology in relation to breath alcohol analysis equipment. Although the Department, through the National Measurement Office, is responsible for dealings with the International Organisation of Legal Metrology, Government policy on breath alcohol analysers is the responsibility of the Home Office and they have not asked either for advice or for any representations to be made on this matter.

### Business: Government Assistance

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the total support for industry by his Department was in each parliamentary constituency in 2011. [88820]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department does not hold these data in the format requested.

However, each year HM Treasury carries out an annual exercise (country and regional analysis) to collate country and regional spending information by Government Departments, devolved Administrations, local authorities and by public corporations using a combination of actual regional spending and statistical methodologies. These data include details of expenditure on enterprise and economic development broken down to each of the nine English regions as well as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and overseas. The most recent country and regional analysis covers the 2010/11 financial year and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespb_natstats_oct2011.htm

### Business: Regulation

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase awareness of the regulatory process for businesses among *(a)* businesses and *(b)* the general public. [89898]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government Statement of Regulation provides an overview to business and the public of the net costs and benefits to business and an update on the Government's regulatory 'One-in, One-out' policy in action. The second statement can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/better-regulation-framework/one-in-one-out/statement

More widely, through the Red Tape Challenge, the Government invite the public and business to give their views, comments and ideas on what regulations should stay, be improved, or be scrapped. The Red Tape Challenge website can be accessed at:

http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

In addition, the Government have simplified the regulatory guidance that they provide through:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk

and this supports the citizen-facing material which is provided through:

http://www.direct.gov.uk

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the findings of the British Chamber of Commerce's report entitled "Red Tape Challenged". [89899]

**Mr Prisk:** I have noted the findings set out in the British Chambers of Commerce report and welcome their support for the changes that the Government have already introduced to strengthen the system for regulatory scrutiny and accountability across Departments. The report highlights a number of areas where Departments can take further action to improve the transparency of their current activities, including the timely and consistent publication of impact assessments, which we will continue to address over the coming months.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that his Department's proposals for the deregulation of businesses are informed by the views of the business community. [89900]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government Red Tape Challenge website gives businesses, voluntary organisations and members of the public the opportunity to comment on all regulations which affect them. These comments directly inform its decisions as to which regulations will be removed or improved.

In its plans on transforming regulatory enforcement the Government has also committed to examine the performance of every regulator including using a web-based tool to enable businesses and individuals to provide a challenge function and real time feedback on their experience of regulators.

In addition, Departments regularly conduct thematic reviews of regulation, such as the recent review of health and safety, which include thorough consultation with business and other interested parties.

### Charities: West Midlands

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* paid jobs and *(b)* volunteering opportunities in charity shops in the West Midlands. [89297]

**Mr Davey:** No information about the number of paid jobs or volunteering opportunities in charity shops is held centrally.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times his Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if he will make a statement. [88364]

**Mr Davey:** The core Department has not used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010.

### Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89678]

**Mr Davey:** BIS was formed through a Machinery of Government change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

Based on information available, the following table also provides details for both the former departments that were merged to create BIS. To provide details of other additional payments and allowances for 2009-10 and the 20 largest payments would involve checking various data sources and entail disproportionate costs.

£

| *Financial year* | *Performance related payments (inc SCS)* | *Allowances* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 2,734,780 | — |
| 2010-11 | 1,540,957 | 2,941,096 |

BIS operates the following working pattern allowances:-

Overtime, travelling time, meal allowance, night duty allowance and night duty officer's allowance, off shore allowance, on call allowance, standby allowance, weekend duty senior press officers allowance, overseas allowances, emergency preparedness volunteers and the following pay arrangements for specialists.

*Former BERR*

| *Specialist area* | *Specialism* | *Grade* | *London (£)* | *National (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Accountant | Qualified | EO | 6,067 | 4,106 |
| | | HEO | 6,829 | 4,448 |
| | | SEO | 8,882 | 4,626 |
| | Part qualified 1st stage | EO to SEO | 1,255 | 784 |
| | Part qualified 2nd stage | EO to SEO | 2,508 | 1,564 |
| Aerospace | P&T | Grade 7 | 3,543 | — |
| Economist | Entry level | FS | 4,009 | 4,009 |
| | Experienced staff | FS | 7,581 | 7,581 |
| | Entry level + MSc | FS | 6,985 | 6,985 |
| | Experienced + MSc | FS | 10,555 | 10,555 |
| | | Grade 7 | 3,577 | 3,577 |
| | | Grade 6 | 2,921 | 2,921 |
| Electrical engineering inspector | Senior | Grade 7 | 12,748 | — |
| Electronics | P&T | EO | 7,543 | — |
| | | HEO | 6,863 | — |
| | | SEO | 8,083 | — |
| Electronics engineer (electronics) | | HEO | 11,503 | — |
| | | SEO | 13,715 | — |
| | | Grade 7 | 5,899 | — |
| | | Grade 6 | 3,680 | — |
| Electronic engineering | P&T | SEO | 8,083 | — |
| | Science | SEO | 6,345 | — |
| Electronic scientific | Science | SEO | 6,345 | — |
| Engineering professional, technical and construction | P&T | HEO | 6,863 | — |
| Government social research (GSR) | | HEO | 6,299 | 4,984 |
| | | SEO | 7,445 | 6,153 |
| | | Grade 7 to grade 6 | 2,452 | — |
| HR business partner | | Grade 6 | 4,122 | — |
| Information | | EO | 5,041 | 4,984 |
| | | HEO | 5,041 | 3,953 |
| | | SEO | 5,041 | 6,153 |
| | | Grade 7 to Grade 6 | 5,041 | — |
| Internal audit | PIIA | EO to SEO | 2,541 | — |
| | GIAS | EO to SEO | 5,030 | — |
| | MIIA | EO to SEO | 6,496 | — |
| | GIAS + IT | EO to SEO | 7,213 | — |
| | MIIA + IT | EO to SEO | 8,899 | — |
| | MIIA | Grade 7 to Grade 6 | 2,571 | — |
| Investigation officers | | HEO to SEO | 2,007 | 2,007 |
| IT Intelligent customer function | | EO to Grade 6 | 6,344 | 6,344 |

*Former BERR*

| *Specialist area* | *Specialism* | *Grade* | *London (£)* | *National (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Procurement level 1 | EO to Grade 6 | 8,062 | 8,062 |
| | Procurement level 2 | EO to Grade 6 | 10,925 | 10,925 |
| Lawyers | | SEO to Grade 6 | 2,338 | 2,338 |
| Librarianship | | EO to Grade 6 | 6,344 | 6,344 |
| Mapping and charting | | EO | 5,149 | 4,986 |
| | | HEO | 4,065 | 3,893 |
| MENTOR advanced user | | AA to HEO | 1,082 | 542 |
| Operational research (OR) | Without MSc | EO-HEO | 4,065 | — |
| | With MSc | EO-HEO | 7,041 | — |
| | | SEO-Grade 6 | 8,270 | — |
| Procurement | Level 1 | AA to G6 | 1,721 | 1,721 |
| | Level 2 | AA to G6 | 4,583 | 4,583 |
| Professional and technical | | AO | 7,687 | 7,866 |
| | | EO | 5,149 | 4,984 |
| | | HEO | 4,065 | 3,953 |
| | | SEO | 4,675 | 6,153 |
| Scientific | | EO | 5,149 | 4,984 |
| | | HEO | 4,065 | 3,953 |
| | | SEO | 4,675 | 6,153 |
| Statistician | Entry level | FS | 4,009 | £4,009 |
| Statistician | Experienced staff | FS | 7,581 | £7,581 |
| | Entry level + MSc | FS | 6,985 | £6,985 |
| | Experienced + MSc | FS | 10,555 | 10,555 |
| | Entry level | EO to SEO | 5,727 | 5,727 |
| | Entry level + MSc | EO to SEO | 8,702 | 8,702 |
| | | Grade 7 to grade 6 | 2,452 | 2,452 |
| Technical assessor (Senior) | | Grade 6 | 3,807 | — |
| Telecoms | P&T | SEO | 8,083 | — |
| | Science | SEO | 6,345 | — |
| | Senior telecoms engineer | SEO | 13,715 | — |
| Typing/Secretarial | | AA | 1,748 | 1,748 |
| | | AO | 1,346 | 1,301 |
| | Former SPS | AA to AO | 712 | 712 |

### *Former DIUS Specialist Pay Scales*

Staff on former DIUS terms and conditions have specialist pay rates rather than a separate allowance. The following table shows how much their specialist pay rates differ from generalist pay rates on the basis of their specialism and qualification level.

| *Specialist area* | *Grade* | *London* | *National* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Accountancy | EO-SEO | £1,255 to £8,881 | £783 to £4,625 |
| Economist | G6-G7 | £2,920 to £3,576 | £2,920 to £3,576 |
| Information | EO-G6 | £5,040 | £5,040 |
| IT—Intelligent customer function | HEO - G7 | £6,342 | —[1] |
| Procurement | HEO-G6 | £1,720 | —[1] |
| Professional and technical | EO - SEO | £4,065 to £5,148 | —[1] |
| Professional and technical economics | EO - SEO | £6,863 to £8,082 | £5,726 |
| Research operational | EO-G6 | £4,065 to £8,269 | £2,451 to £8,269 |
| Research social | EO-G6 | £2,451 to £6,299 | £2,451 to £6,299 |
| Science | EO - SEO | £4,065 to £5,148 | [2]£6,152 |
| Statistician | EO-G6 | £2,451 to £5,726 | £2,451 to £5,726 |

[1] All posts are in London.

[2] No EO/HEO posts outside London.

Travel and subsistence payments are also available.

To provide further breakdown would incur disproportionate costs as would obtaining the information for BIS's non-departmental public bodies. Details of BIS partner organisations can be found at:

www.bis.gov.uk/partners/by/atoz

## Employment Tribunals Service

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written statement of 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 26-8W, on employment law review, when he expects reform of the employment tribunal system to be completed. [89231]

**Mr Davey:** We are working to reform the employment tribunal system as soon as possible during this Parliament.

The measures announced on 23 November requiring secondary legislation (witness statements being taken as read, the removal of witness expenses, judges sitting alone in unfair dismissal cases and changes to limits for cost awards and deposit orders) will come into force on 6 April 2012, subject to parliamentary approval. Measures requiring primary legislation, including early conciliation, financial penalties, judges sitting alone in the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the formula for uprating tribunal awards and redundancy payments will be implemented when parliamentary time allows.

The Fundamental Review of the Employment Tribunal Rules of Procedure is expected to recommend a revised procedural code for employment tribunals that would come into force in 2013, following public consultation and subject to parliamentary approval.

### EU External Trade: India

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the livelihoods of the rural poor in India of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement; and what representations he has received from non-governmental organisations on the agreement. [89573]

**Mr Davey:** The European Union's sustainability impact assessment (SIA):

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2009/june/tradoc_143372.pdf

concluded that the EU-India Free Trade Agreement would lead to an overall reduction in both rural and urban poverty, and that an ambitious agreement would deliver the greatest benefits. A wide range of civil society organisations, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), were consulted in the preparation of the SIA, and BIS officials regularly discuss our approach to trade negotiations with NGOs.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88960]

**Mr Davey:** The information requested is not held centrally and is currently being researched. I will write to the hon. Member as soon the information is available and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Foreign Trade

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the export figures for countries outside the EU in the balance of trade figures published on 11 January 2012; and if he will make a statement. [90287]

**Mr Prisk:** The latest figures produced by the Office for National Statistics show that UK exports of goods to countries outside the EU totalled £12.2 billion in November 2011. This was £0.4 billion down on October 2011 which was a record month since the series began in 1998. The fall in exports was driven by a fall in the export of silver to non-EU countries, including India, down £0.3 billion. Exports of intermediate goods and consumer goods other than cars, were each down £0.2 billion. These falls were offset by higher exports of oil and cars, both up £0.1 billion.

Since monthly trade data is volatile, the ONS advise that quarterly data should be used for analysis and assessment of trends. Data for the three months ending November 2012 showed that non-EU exports totalled £36.1 billion, a record for any three-month period since the series began in 1998. This was an increase of £1.9 billion (5.7%) on the previous three months, and an increase of £3.8 billion (11.8%) on the three months ending November 2010.

### Further Education: Higher Education

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students in each age group were studying a higher education qualification in a further education college funded *(a)* directly by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, *(b)* via a university and *(c)* via the Skills Funding Agency in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [88304]

**Mr Willetts:** The answer to the question is shown in the following tables. These are the official figures provided by each funding body and are not comparable due to differing methodologies.

Figures from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) are shown on a full person equivalent basis and the age group refers to the age reported at the start of the course while figures from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) are shown on a learner basis and the age group refers to the age reported at the start of the academic year. As the figures are not comparable, figures on the proportion of students funded by each category are not shown.

Table 1 shows the numbers of students studying for a higher education qualification in a further education college that are (i) HEFCE funded, (ii) indirectly funded by HEFCE (via a university), (iii) by another funding stream (for prescribed higher education courses) and (iv) by another funding stream (for franchised higher education courses). Detail on prescribed courses of higher education (HE) can be found on the HEFCE website:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/circlets/2008/cl22_08/

*Table 1: Learner participation (full person equivalent) in further education colleges for higher education courses funded by HEFCE and other funding streams, 2007/08 to 2009/10*

| | *(i) HEFCE funded* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Age at start of course* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| Under 21 | 17,800 | 18,700 | 20,800 |
| 21 to 24 | 9,200 | 9,600 | 10,600 |
| 25+ | 21,300 | 22,400 | 23,000 |
| Total | 48,300 | 50,700 | 54,400 |

*(ii) HEFCE indirectly funded*

| *Age at start of course* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 21 | 17,600 | 18,000 | 20,700 |
| 21 to 24 | 7,800 | 8,200 | 8,900 |
| 25+ | 28,200 | 28,600 | 29,000 |
| Total | 53,600 | 54,800 | 58,600 |

*(iii) Other funding stream (prescribed HE)*

| *Age at start of course* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 21 | 1,800 | 1,700 | 1,900 |
| 21 to 24 | 1,500 | 1,700 | 1,800 |
| 25+ | 4,000 | 4,200 | 4,700 |
| Total | 7,300 | 7,600 | 8,400 |

*(iv) Other funding stream (franchised HE)*

| *Age at start of course* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 21 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 1,100 |
| 21 to 24 | 1,000 | 1,300 | 1,100 |
| 25+ | 2,800 | 4,500 | 3,700 |
| Total | 5,300 | 7,400 | 5,900 |

*Notes:*

1. Students are counted if they are included in the standard registration population.
2. A student, studying at the same level, mode, subject and institution will be counted only once.
3. De-duplicating between the ILR and HESA record has been carried out.
4. Age groups refer to the age reported at the start of the course.
5. Some records have been removed from the ILR as they were returned incorrectly.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record (ILR) Data for HEFCE funded and HESA data record for HEFCE indirectly funded.

Information on the number of students studying higher education courses in further education and funded via the Skills Funding Agency is shown in Table 2.

*Table 2: Learner participation in further education on level 4 and above courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency*

| *Age at start of academic year* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 21 | 4,000 | 4,300 | 4,200 |
| 21 to 24 | 6,400 | 6,300 | 5,600 |
| 25+ | 43,900 | 48,700 | 40,800 |
| Unknown | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total | 54,400 | 59,400 | 50,700 |

[1] Indicates a base value of less than 50.

*Notes:*

1. Figures include learners in further education on level 4 or above courses that were funded by the Learning and Skills Council and/or are now funded by the Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency.
2. Age groups refer to the age reported as at 31 August of the academic year, i.e. academic age.
3. Figures have been rounded up or down to the nearest hundred, so components may not sum to totals.
4. Figures do not include any learners returned in ILR collections for higher education institutions.

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record (ILR) Data.

Information on the number of learners participating in further education is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

## Higher Education: North East

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications had been submitted by residents of *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* the borough of Middlesbrough, *(c)* the borough of Redcar and Cleveland, *(d)* the Tees Valley and *(e)* the north-east in the 2011-12 admissions cycle by 19 December 2011; and how many such applications had been submitted on the same date in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [89167]

**Mr Willetts:** The latest information is in the following tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

UCAS have stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

*All applicants to UCAS as at 19 December by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | *Application cycle* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11*[1] | *2011-12*[2] |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency | 444 | 403 |
| The borough of Middlesbrough | 332 | 300 |
| The borough of Redcar and Cleveland | 392 | 345 |
| The Tees Valley | 3,205 | 2,772 |
| The north-east | 11,284 | 10,103 |

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.

[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

*On time applicants to courses with a 15 October deadline*[1] *by parliamentary constituency/region*

| | *Application cycle* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Area of domicile* | *2010-11*[2] | *2011-12*[3] |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency | 35 | 33 |
| The borough of Middlesbrough | 23 | 18 |
| The borough of Redcar and Cleveland | 21 | 23 |
| The Tees Valley[4] | 240 | 217 |
| The north-east | 1,131 | 1,073 |

[1] These are courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and courses at Oxbridge.

[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.

[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

[4] Revised figures. These correct the figures provided in PQ 84160 (254 for 2010-11 and 227 for 2011-12). The figures for the Tees Valley include the constituencies of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar, Stockton North, Stockton South, Darlington, and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland.

## Land Registry

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to improve access to the records of land ownership held by the Land Registry; and if he will make a statement. [89566]

**Mr Davey:** The Land Register is open to public inspection to assist the buying and selling of property and land, as well as to provide publicly available information about property and land. We have had an open register since 1990.

The information is made available online to both citizens and professionals by means of two separate web-based services. This allows anyone upon payment of a small fee to access the Land Registry's records. These services are very popular with property professionals and the public alike. Our online service for the general public was launched in January 2005. It helped the Land Registry to meet Government targets of making all publicly available information accessible electronically and proved very successful, amply demonstrated by the fact that today 'Find a Property' receives up to 20,000 downloads a week.

However, we are aware of the fact that this means of easy access has the potential to facilitate fraud. We take the issue of fraud very seriously and work closely with stakeholders including the Law Society, Solicitors Regulation Authority, Council of Licensed Conveyancers, National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, National Fraud Authority and Financial Services Authority as well as land registries in other countries to do all we can to reduce the opportunities for fraud and identify when it has happened.

This means that we do insist upon registration requirements in order to use these web-based services, and the Land Registry has no plans to reduce or remove these requirements.

The Land Registry is always looking for ways to maximise the publication of the data it holds. As the Government have already announced, the Land Registry together with Ordnance Survey, Met Office and Companies House, is now one of the four founder members of the Public Data Group (PDG) of Trading Funds. As part of its commitment to the Government's growth and transparency agenda, the Land Registry will be releasing detailed customer transaction and property price information free of charge via a new dedicated webpage. The housing market forms a key component of economic growth which is why the Land Registry will be releasing the residential property sales and transaction information free of charge, helping the market to be better informed about trends in price and volume.

As part of this, by the end of January 2012, the Land Registry will make available for free, downloadable for reuse in an accessible and reuseable format under the Open Government Licence (OGL) the following data, updated monthly:

i. number and types of applications by customer by month

ii. number and types of transactions for value by customer by month

iii. number of applications in England and Wales, by region and local authority district (or equivalent) by month

iv. number of searches by month (which can be a leading indicator of housing market movements).

Furthermore, from March 2012, the Land Registry will make available 'Price Paid information' showing all residential property sales in England and Wales at address level. This will be downloadable for reuse, in a reuseable format under the OGL, and updated monthly.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the total amount of land in England which is unregistered *(a)* in hectares and *(b)* as a proportion of the total land mass; and if he will make a statement. [89568]

**Mr Davey:** The total amount of land in England that is unregistered is 2,711,622 hectares. The total percentage of unregistered land in England is 20.4%.

### New Businesses

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the use of the New York City Economic Development Corporation's Sunshine Bronx Business Incubator as a model in the UK to encourage entrepreneurialism and business start-ups with high potential for growth. [89890]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* There are many positive examples of good practice abroad of which the Bronx Business Incubator centre is one. The work of incubators is important and in this context it is worth mentioning the Business Coaching for Growth (BCG) initiative which is due to go live at the end of January 2012.

The programme, which will be delivered by the private sector, will help up to 10,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) a year to overcome the barriers to high growth. It will provide coaches to work face to face with senior management teams to help them to develop and implement their strategies and develop the skills, expertise and techniques to overcome the barriers they face to growing. BCG will be highly networked and will connect high growth potential businesses to other forms of support such as business incubators, technology and innovation centres, and science parks. BCG will also forge excellent relationships with Business Angels and the venture capital industry to showcase businesses seeking equity investment.

### Public Houses

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from *(a)* pub landlords and *(b)* large-companies owning public houses on the tenureship of public houses. [90205]

**Mr Davey:** I have received numerous representations from both pub landlords and large companies owning public houses. This is set out in more detail in information released under the Freedom of Information Act, which may be found here:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/foi/information-released

### Public Houses: Closures

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many public houses have closed in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [90273]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on how many public houses have closed in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [90273]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise deaths are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The latest statistics on the number of enterprise deaths for public houses/bars have been provided in the spreadsheet, which show the number of enterprise deaths in the UK for public house/bars by local authority from 2002 to 2010.

Copies of the table have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Public Houses: Mutual Societies

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has considered taking steps to promote mutual models of pub ownership and management. [90199]

**Mr Davey:** The Government are not minded to intervene in setting the terms of commercial, contractual relationships within the pub industry.

### Retail Trade

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effects of *(a)* low consumer confidence, *(b)* reduction in household income, *(c)* high inflation rates and *(d)* changes in consumer behaviour on the viability of small independent traders. [89298]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government are fully aware that in the current economic conditions companies of all sizes and in all sectors are facing a tough time. It is however difficult to assess the causes and effects of the myriad factors that impact on company performance. We keep in close touch with the major retail trade associations, and organisations such as the Federation of Small Businesses, and so are alive to the concerns of small retailers.

We take the plight of small businesses, including small retailers, seriously which is why we are supporting small businesses by addressing the challenges they face. We are doing this by ensuring we have a predictable tax system that rewards endeavour; ensuring businesses can access finance; enabling better access to both debt and equity finance; and reducing red tape. We are also ensuring that small and medium-sized enterprises have access to the advice and guidance they need, including through business coaching and mentoring.

### Student Finance England: Complaints

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints Student Finance England received in academic years *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2009-10. [89347]

**Mr Willetts:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) is responsible for administering the Student Finance England (SFE) service on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable). I am advised by SLC that information to show the number of complaints received by academic years is not readily available. The table shows the number of complaints received by SLC in relation to the SFE service by financial year.

By way of context, the progressive increase in complaints could in part be attributed to the progressive increase in SLC's work since 2009. SLC took on responsibility for student finance assessments from English local authorities over a three year period, starting with new applicants for the 2009/10 academic year, and ending with all applicants for the 2011/12 academic year. For the 2009/10 academic year SLC received 470,000 applications, for the 2010/11 academic year this figure increased to 800,000, and for the 2011/12 academic year SLC has to date received over 1 million applications.

*Number of registered complaints received by SLC in relation to the SFE service*

| *Financial year* | *Number of complaints* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 1,431 |
| 2010-11 | 3,653 |
| 2011-12 (to date) | 4,122 |
| Total | 9,206 |

### Student Finance England: Loans

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what further resources, in addition to the formation of the Resolve Team, have been put in place to deal with delays in the processing of applications by Student Finance England. [89345]

**Mr Willetts:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) is responsible for administering the Student Finance England service on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable). SLC improved its processing performance for the 2011/12 academic year cycle, fully processing 83% of applications for core tuition fee and maintenance support by the start of term, compared to 73% last year. SLC also improved its average processing time for core applications by more than three weeks from 9.9 weeks for the 2010/11 cycle to 6.8 weeks for the 2011/12 cycle.

SLC continues to implement measures to improve the service it delivers and reduce the time taken to process applications. This year SLC introduced an electronic link with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to verify household income automatically, meaning that SLC was able to process the majority of new students' applications for means-tested support without asking customers to send in financial evidence. SLC is also improving staff training, providing simpler web-based information, advice and guidance, and delivering processing improvements, including to ICT-based systems.

### Student Finance England: Training

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what training call centre staff at Student Finance England receive prior to handling calls; and for how long such training lasts. [89348]

**Mr Willetts:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) is responsible for administering the Student Finance England service on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable). Student Finance England operates a flexible resource model to meet the demand on its call centre throughout the year, with a core of permanent staff at three locations in the UK supplemented by a variable number of additional temporary staff provided by two specialist companies.

Permanent SLC staff receive four weeks' induction training, covering student finance products, system use and customer service skills. They are then supported on a one-to-one basis for a further week before taking calls independently. Staff at the external, specialist companies receive a condensed two week training programme covering student finance products and system use with a shorter and more focused section on customer service skills. They are then supported by on-site staff from SLC and a dedicated help-line should they require assistance answering customer queries.

All staff are monitored to ensure quality standards are met, have extensive coaching support from their team manager and are allocated 12 days of additional training through the year.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* Centrepoint, *(b)* Crisis, *(c)* Skill Force and *(d)* Shelter in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90398]

**Mr Davey:** The Department has not directly funded any of the organisations named above in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

## EDUCATION

### Academies

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between his Department and Ofsted relating to academies; [87578]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between his Department and Ofsted relating to Ofsted inspections to be undertaken on future dates. [87579]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 20 December 2011]:* The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether academy trusts are required to notify his Department of the results of their consultations; [89050]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to monitor compliance with the duty to consult placed on academy trusts by section 10 of the Academies Act 2010. [89051]

**Mr Gibb:** There is a statutory requirement for a school converting to academy status to carry out a consultation but it is up to the school to decide with whom and how to consult.

Schools do not need to provide the Department with the results of this consultation though the Department will seek confirmation from schools that the consultation has taken place, the dates on which the consultation took place, and that the Academy Trust is content to proceed with conversion to academy status. Schools should also ensure that consultation documentation is available to the Department on request.

### Adoption

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to change the cultural match of children with families requirement during the adoption process. [90004]

**Tim Loughton:** The Government want to see more children adopted from care, where this is in their best interests. We want local authorities to look very critically at their adoption practice, particularly in respect of children who wait longest to be placed with adoptive parents, such as black children.

I have published revised statutory adoption guidance, which makes clear that the primary consideration for local authorities must be whether the prospective adopters can meet all or most of the child's needs. It is plainly unacceptable for a child to be denied loving adoptive parents solely on the grounds that the child and prospective adopters do not share the same ethnic or cultural background.

I have asked Martin Narey, who I have appointed as ministerial adviser on adoption, to provide advice on the reasons behind the delays in placing black children for adoption. I have also approved funding for a one-year pilot project, led by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, to gain a better understanding of how the adoption register is being used to help match prospective adopters with children and how matching decisions are made at local level.

### Child Support Agency

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* telephone discussions he has had with Ministers in other Government departments on proposals to introduce (i) up-front charges for using the Child Support Agency (CSA) and (ii) administration fees for the recipients of payments under the CSA. [87442]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has had no meetings or telephone discussions with Ministers in other Departments on this issue.

Other DfE Ministers have been part of cross-Government discussions about the Child Support Agency and child maintenance reforms. This is part of the normal process of policy development and decision-making, particularly for issues where several Departments have a policy interest.

### Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to integrate and monitor subjective well-being as a key outcome within the Positive for Youth strategy. [90141]

**Tim Loughton:** The Positive for Youth strategy includes nine outcome measures for young people that will be reported on annually. The first of these measures is a new national measure of young people's subjective well-being that will be recorded as part of the Measuring National Well-being Programme commissioned by the Prime Minister. This programme is being led by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the findings will be published in July 2012.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what methods are used by his Department to measure the effects of its decisions on the subjective well-being of children. [90156]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department monitors the impacts of its decisions in various ways, including through evaluations. The Department has a particular interest in the impacts of its decisions on attainment as well as other impacts that contribute to higher attainment, including well-being.

Subjective well-being questions have been added to the evaluation of the National Citizen Service (NCS) which brings together 16-year-olds from different backgrounds in a summer programme of challenge, service and learning. The NCS is currently half way through a two-year pilot.

In addition, the Childhood Wellbeing Research Centre (CWRC), funded by the Department, has been scoping ways of developing a measure of well-being for use when evaluating children's services. The initial report can be accessed here:

http://www.cwrc.ac.uk/news/documents/Developing_CYPOC_Report_Summary_March_2011.pdf

### Children in Care: Individual Savings Accounts

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has allocated to support junior ISAs for looked-after children; and if he will make a statement. [89220]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* The Government have already announced its intention to provide a payment, into a Junior ISA, of £200 for every child looked after for 12 months or more and not previously eligible for a Child Trust Fund. These payments are expected to cost some £16.7 million over the period April 2012 to March 2015. The Department for Education is currently considering bids to operate the scheme. The appointed supplier will also seek to raise additional funds for these accounts from charitable sources.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he is taking steps to encourage local authorities to make regular contributions to junior ISAs for looked-after children; and if he will make a statement. [89221]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* The Government have already announced their intention to provide a payment, into a junior ISA, of £200 for every child looked after for 12 months or more and not previously eligible for a child trust fund. The supplier appointed to operate the scheme will also seek to raise additional funds for these accounts from charitable sources. Local authorities will be encouraged to contribute to the accounts. It is recognised, however, that many local authorities already support the savings of looked-after children and may wish to continue with these arrangements alongside the junior ISA provided by the Government.

### Children: Research

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has commissioned to measure the subjective well-being of children. [90137]

**Tim Loughton:** Following an invitation by the Prime Minister last November, the National Statistician is producing new measures of subjective well-being. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is developing well-being measures for children and young people as part of the overall Measuring National Well-being Programme. The Department is working with the ONS to help them develop these measures.

The Department has also included subjective well-being questions in the 2012 wave of the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Survey which covers 11 to 15-year-olds. We expect to obtain results from this survey in August 2012.

In addition, the Childhood Wellbeing Research Centre (CWRC), funded by the Department, has been scoping ways of developing a measure of well-being for use when evaluating children's services. The initial report can be accessed here:

http://www.cwrc.ac.uk/news/documents/Developing_CYPOC_Report_Summary_March_2011.pdf

### Curriculum: Design

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the study of design and technology in schools; and if he will make a statement. [89968]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* Design and Technology is currently a foundation subject within the national curriculum and is compulsory at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. The current review of the national curriculum is considering the future status of the subject.

Provisional figures show that in academic year 2010/11 there were 226,400 entries at GCSE in the subject.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many apprentices were employed by each public body for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he expects each public body to sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April 2012 and March 2013. [88703]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department does not hold information centrally on apprentices for its public bodies.

The contact informaiton for our ALBs can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/armslengthbodies/a00432/ndpbs-associated-with-the-department

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013. [88704]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department does not hold information centrally on apprentices for its public bodies.

The contact informaiton for our ALBs can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/armslengthbodies/a00432/ndpbs-associated-with-the-department

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89148]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education allocated funding to sponsor apprenticeships as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *(a)* 2010-11 | 290,246 |
| *(b)* 2011-12 | 94,000 |

Allocation of funding for 2012-13 has still to be finalised.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships he plans that his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89217]

**Tim Loughton:** Apprentices in the Department are contracted for a period of up to 18 months. The Department employed 12 apprentices between April 2010 and March 2011 and 11 between April 2011 and December 2011.

The Department plans to recruit apprentices during 2012 but has yet to agree the numbers.

### Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89402]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department employs fewer than five speechwriters and all are senior information officers.

### Recruitment

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which of his Department's staff who have been employed since May 2010 were previously political appointees. [89048]

**Tim Loughton:** Fewer than five staff employed by the Department since May 2010 were previously political appointees.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89401]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department's NDPBs maintain their own human resources functions and agree internally their own approach to internships. For that reason the Department has not issued official guidelines on these matters.

### Education: Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the relationship between levels of subjective well-being of children and their educational attainment. [90138]

**Tim Loughton:** There is a well-evidenced relationship between children's well-being and their educational attainment—happier children tend also to do well in school. See, for example, research from the Centre for the Wider Benefits of Learning which can be accessed at:

http://eprints.ioe.ac.uk/2050/1/Gutman2008Children.pdf

However evidence on whether these links are causal—that higher subjective well-being in children leads to improved attainment, or whether higher levels of attainment lead to higher subjective well-being—has been less well-researched.

Research from the Centre for the Economics of Education has investigated this link and found that pupils who experience higher levels of enjoyment of school at age 14 go on to have higher levels of attainment at age 16 compared to pupils with lower levels of enjoyment of school at age 14 who are otherwise similar in their characteristics. This suggests—but does not prove—that higher well-being is causing improvements in attainment.

The research also found that children who have higher achievement at age 11 go on to enjoy school more at age 16, although this is not a strong relationship.

On other indicators of well-being, pupils who experience higher levels of bullying at age 14 subsequently have lower levels of-academic achievement at age 16 compared to pupils with lower levels of bullying at age 14 who are otherwise similar.

The research can be accessed on the Centre for the Economics of Education's website:

http://cee.lse.ac.uk/ceedps/ceesp04.pdf

### E-mail

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps have been taken to secure the contents of private e-mail accounts of departmental staff relating to official business; [89055]

(2) whether *(a)* Rachel Woolf and *(b)* any staff of the New Schools Network contacted him or his staff via a private e-mail account (i) during the tender process for the free schools pre-application support grant and (ii) before the tender criteria were discussed for the grant; [89056]

(3) whether he plans to conduct a review on the use of private e-mail accounts by his staff for official business. [89057]

**Tim Loughton:** The Information Commissioner published guidance on 15 December 2011 concerning information held in private e-mail accounts. The Cabinet Office is considering this and will issue further guidance to Departments.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88967]

**Tim Loughton:** During 2010 and 2011, the Department for Education did not bring into force any legislation which originated from proposals by the European Commission.

### Free School Meals

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children receiving free school meals for whom such meals are the only hot nutritious meal of the day. [89066]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department has not made any estimate of the number of children receiving free school meals for whom such meals are the only hot nutritious meal of the day. While local authorities and schools are responsible for providing free school meals, there is no requirement that a free school meal should be a hot meal.

### Free Schools

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department employs staff to promote and encourage free schools. [89049]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department's Communications Directorate works across a broad range of projects in parallel rather than dedicating full-time individuals or teams on any one policy. A number of communications officials have therefore been engaged in communicating the free schools' programme at different stages.

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason academies and free schools opened since September 2010 are not required to adhere to mandatory nutritional standards. [89435]

**Mr Gibb:** Academies and free schools are required to provide lunches where there is demand and free school meals where appropriate. Those opening from September 2010 are free to promote healthy eating and good nutrition as they see fit. We have no reason to believe that they will not provide healthy, balanced meals that meet the current nutritional regulatory standards.

In order to assess any changes in school food provision in schools which have converted to academy status, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has asked the School Food Trust to undertake a qualitative study of the approach taken by academies to providing healthy school food. We expect the results to be published in the spring this year.

### Free Schools: Finance

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many applications his Department has received for the free schools pre-application support grant since its creation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such application; [89046]

(2) what reasons applicants for the free schools pre-application support grant were not interviewed; [89047]

(3) whether the New Schools Network has disclosed any conflict of interest to his Department since June 2010. [89052]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department received two applications for the grant to provide pre-application support to free school proposers. In line with normal practice with such grants, the Department does not intend to place these applications in the Library. In this instance, we decided to conduct a paper-based exercise with clear published criteria for assessment, allowing applicants to demonstrate their relevant skills and knowledge. In line with the terms of the grant, New Schools Network routinely declares its current and potential conflicts of interest to the Department to ensure a transparent and productive working relationship.

### Playing Fields

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on allowing schools to take over the playing fields of an adjacent school that has closed. [89935]

**Tim Loughton:** The playing fields of maintained schools are protected by Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Schools and authorities must obtain the approval of the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), before they can dispose of publically funded land. Applications to dispose of school playing fields are approved only when it is demonstrated that the application meets published criteria. One of those criteria requires schools and local authorities to consider the needs of maintained schools within a one mile radius that are deficient in their playing field requirement, as prescribed by The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999.

### Pupil Exclusions

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to *(a)* evaluate and *(b)* bring forward legislative proposals on a new approach to permanent exclusions. [89053]

**Mr Gibb:** The new approach to school exclusion, which sees schools deciding where excluded pupils are educated, and retaining responsibility for their progress and attendance, is currently being tested in volunteer schools around the country. These trials are due to finish in July 2014.

The exclusions trials represent a significant change to current policy and thinking and it is important that the Government takes the time to understand all the implications. The trial will be independently evaluated throughout its three year term, and annual progress reports will be published.

The findings of the evaluation will inform the development of policy, and when we have a clear picture of the impact of the trial, we will bring forward legislative proposals.

### Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding was granted per pupil to Shropshire Council in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [87817]

**Mr Gibb:** Per pupil unit of funding figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 for Shropshire county council are provided as follows. The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19:

*Dedicated School Grants plus specific grants*

| | *Funding per pupil (£)* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| Shropshire | 4,450 | 4,690 |

*Notes:*
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and standards fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. These figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

### School Leaving

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children who had previously studied in a school *(a)* with and *(b)* without a sixth form, remained in education and training after the age of 16 in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [87861]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The information requested is shown in the following table. In all cases age refers to age at the start of the academic year.

*16 year olds in education or training[1] by whether their school at age 15 had a sixth form[2]*

| | *Age 16 in:* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* |
| Without sixth form[2] (Number) | 178,000 | 185,000 | 190,000 | 190,000 | 188,000 |
| With sixth form[2] (Number) | 320,000 | 333,000 | 343,000 | 351,000 | 352,000 |
| All[3] (Number) | 498,000 | 518,000 | 533,000 | 541,000 | 540,000 |
| | | | | | |
| Without sixth form[2] (Percentage) | 85 | 87 | 89 | 90 | 94 |
| With sixth form[2] (Percentage) | 88 | 90 | 91 | 93 | 95 |
| All (Percentage) | 87 | 89 | 90 | 92 | 95 |
| *Population at 15[4]* | | | | | |
| Without sixth form[2] (Number) | 210,000 | 214,000 | 215,000 | 210,000 | 200,000 |
| With sixth form[2] (Number) | 365,000 | 372,000 | 378,000 | 379,000 | 370,000 |
| All[3] (Number) | 576,000 | 586,000 | 592,000 | 590,000 | 570,000 |

[1] Defined as studying full or part-time or doing an apprenticeship during first year following completion of compulsory education.
[2] Whether the school had a sixth form is based on its status at end of 2009/10.
[3] Components may not sum to total due to rounding.
[4] Coverage is pupils in mainstream state funded schools at age 15.
*Source:*
DfE Matched administrative data

### Schools: Expenditure

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of average expenditure by schools on training events and seminars relating to examination and course work specifications; and what assessment he has made of *(a)* recent and *(b)* long-term trends in the level of such expenditure. [88323]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department does not collect data on expenditure by schools on such training events and seminars. We are therefore unable to make an assessment of trends in such spending.

### Schools: Transport

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children who have received support through discretionary subsidies for home to school transport in the last three years. [89073]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department does not collect any information from local authorities or other sources on the number of children for whom transport is provided, irrespective of whether the child is eligible for statutory free transport or discretionary support.

### Schools: Warwick

**Chris White:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department and its predecessors have provided to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Warwick and Leamington constituency in each of the last five years. [88392]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Warwick and Leamington constituency is not available.

Since 2006-07, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the main source of school funding. As the DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil, there is no apportionment made between the primary and secondary sectors.

Funding figures for 2006-07 to 2010-11 for Warwickshire county council are provided in the following table. These are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in cash terms.

*Cash terms funding—DSG plus grants pupils aged three to 19: Warwickshire*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---:|
| 2006-07 | 289.554 |
| 2007-08 | 305.438 |
| 2008-09 | 315.402 |
| 2009-10 | 328.814 |
| 2010-11 | 346.134 |

*Notes:*
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Cash.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 as funded through the DSG.

### Students: Shropshire

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding will be granted to Shropshire council for each pupil for 2012-13. [87750]

**Mr Gibb:** Shropshire has been allocated £4,611.67 per pupil through the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2012-13. In addition, it will receive £600 for each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals at any time in the last six years; £600 for each pupil continuously looked after for six months; and £250 for each pupil with a parent in the armed services.

Indicative funding for sixth form pupils will be announced at the end of January 2012, with finalised allocations announced by the end of March 2012.

### Teachers

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many new graduates he expects to enter the teaching profession in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013 and *(c)* 2014. [86731]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The number of teachers that schools employ in future years will, as now, be a matter for them to decide, according to funding, local needs and subject to statutory requirements on class sizes where appropriate. When setting annual initial teacher training (ITT) targets to ensure an adequate pool of teachers for schools to recruit from, the Department takes into account data relating to the number of trainees entering ITT courses and the typical success rates for achieving Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) through these courses.

Teachers entering the profession in a given year will typically have started their ITT in one of the four preceding academic years. It therefore follows that the number of new graduates who wish to enter the teaching profession will be indicated by the number of trainees commencing ITT courses in the previous one to four years. In 2009/10 39,500 trainees started an ITT course; in 2010/11 this number was 38,300 and in 2011/12 this number was 35,410[1].

The proportion of final year ITT trainees who went on to achieve QTS in the three academic years to 2009/10 can be found in the following table:

*Proportion of final year ITT trainees achieving QTS status by academic year*

| | *Final year outcome for ITT trainees* | | |
|---|---:|---:|---:|
| *Academic year* | *Achieved QTS (%)* | *Did not achieve QTS (%)* | *Total ITT trainees in final year* |
| 2007/08 | 88 | 12 | 37,450 |
| 2008/09 | 88 | 12 | 37,590 |
| 2009/10 | 89 | 11 | 38,970 |

*Notes:*
1. Percentages rounded to the nearest 1% and total rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Includes both undergraduate and postgraduate courses through mainstream and employment-based routes.
*Source:*
TDA Performance Profiles

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and taken from the DfE School Workforce in England Statistical First Release, TDA Census Cohort data and the TDA Census Publication for successive years.

### Teachers: Ex-servicemen

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he is making in enrolling former service personnel into the teaching profession. [89522]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer16 January 2012]:* The Government launched the Military to Mentors programme in September 2011, which will aim to train up to 100 service leavers to work with some of our most vulnerable young people in schools this year. We are also working closely with the Ministry of Defence to develop the wider Troops to Teachers programme with the aim of encouraging high quality service leavers to transfer their talents to schools, where they can become inspirational teachers and role models.

We will announce further details of the programme shortly.

### Teachers: Training

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to improve regulation of teacher training seminars designed to improve knowledge of examination specifications in Key Stage 4 examinations run by *(a)* examination awarding bodies and *(b)* non-awarding body private providers. [89323]

**Mr Gibb:** In December 2011, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), asked the independent qualifications regulator, Ofqual, to investigate and report on the serious allegations levelled against awarding bodies of malpractice in seminars that they had provided to teachers. Ofqual issued an interim report on 20 December, with an update on 6 January. These reports can be found on Ofqual's website at:

www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2011-12-20-awarding-organisation-seminars-for-teachers.pdf

and

www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2012-01-06-letter-to-secretary-of-state-statement-january-series.pdf?itemid=145

We welcome Ofqual's review into the future role of both regulated and unregulated seminars. It is clear to the Government that if such events are to continue, greater control is needed over the information that can be shared. Qualifications must be true tests of ability across a suitably broad and challenging syllabus. Ofqual will report on the outcome of their review by the summer.

### University Technical College

**Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department are working on the proposed creation of a University Technical College in Plymouth. [89316]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department's Free Schools Group, which includes the University Technical Colleges (UTCs) and Studio Schools Division, works across a broad range of projects in parallel, rather than dedicating full-time individuals or teams on any one project. A number of officials will therefore be engaged in supporting delivery of the Plymouth UTC at different stages.

### Vocational Guidance

**Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that pupils receive high-quality information, guidance and advice on future education and career options. [89076]

**Mr Gibb:** From September, schools will be placed under a duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils. The guidance must include information on the full range of 16 to 18 education and training options, including apprenticeships. Statutory guidance will set expectations about the type and quality of support schools should offer under the new duty, including the need to secure face-to-face careers guidance where it is the most suitable support, particularly for the disadvantaged.

In support of the new duty, schools will be able to access high-quality support from providers who have achieved a national quality standard for careers guidance. This quality standard will assist schools in making well-informed decisions about which provider to use.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 88686, on private email accounts, tabled on 20 December 2011 for answer on 10 January 2012. [90375]

**Tim Loughton:** A response to the hon. Member's question was issued on 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 425W.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 18 January 2012*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Asylum

**Eric Ollerenshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the integration of refugees in the UK; [89425]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to promote the effective integration of refugees in the UK; [89426]

(3) what plans he has to monitor the integration of refugees in the UK; [89427]

(4) what plans his Department has to develop a strategy for refugee integration in the UK. [89428]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Government plan to publish a document setting out its approach to integration shortly. The Government's role is to create the conditions which enable integration to happen in all places and with all communities. But integration including for refugees is essentially a local issue led by public and private sector organisations, voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and other local organisations. As such integration activity should in the main be designed, delivered and monitored locally.

As a result of the need to make significant savings across the UK Border Agency, in line with the Government's strategy to reduce the deficit, it is no longer possible for the UK Border Agency to fund a refugee integration service. In response to concerns about the resultant impact on refugees, the UK Border Agency established a cross sector working group in April 2011. The group's aim is to identify cost neutral activities that will help address the integration needs of refugees. In the meantime, individuals granted refugee status have full entitlement to access public funds and services and the UK Border Agency is committed to providing documentation that helps facilitate access to these entitlements.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), has discussed the Government's approach to integration with colleagues on a number of occasions.

### Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what methods his Department uses to measure the effects of its decisions on the subjective well-being of children; [90147]

(2) whether he is taking steps to encourage local authorities to use children's subjective well-being as a key outcome; [90148]

(3) what research his Department has commissioned to measure the subjective well-being of children by local area. [90150]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department does not currently use any methods to measure the impacts of its decisions on the subjective well-being of children, and it has not commissioned any research to measure the subjective well-being of children by local area. However, we are engaging with the Office for National Statistics' work to develop well-being measures for children and young people as part of the overall measuring National Well-being Programme. The Department will be engaging with local authorities on how best to make available sub-national well-being data and to consider how local authorities and others could make best use of it.

### Electrical Safety: Housing

**Graham Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in circumstances attributable to unsafe electrical fittings in (i) privately rented housing and (ii) council housing in each of the last four years. [88745]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department does not hold the specific data requested on deaths and injuries due to unsafe electrical fittings. However, we are currently analysing the electrical accident statistics that are available as part of our review of Part P of the Building Regulations (Electrical safety in dwellings) and will be publishing the results in due course.

### Fire Services: Standards

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average response time was for a fire appliance to attend *(a)* a dwelling fire with persons involved, *(b)* a dwelling fire with no persons involved, *(c)* a fire in a non-dwelling building, *(d)* a road vehicle fire and *(e)* an outdoor fire in each (i) region, (ii) fire service family group and (iii) local authority in each of the last three years. [R] [90016]

**Robert Neill:** These data have been placed in the Library of the House. Latest response time data are derived from the Incident Recording System which has been in use nationwide since April 2009, while response times up to 2008 are as provided previously.

### Housing: Regulation

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what regulations are in place to protect *(a)* freeholders, *(b)* leaseholders and *(c)* tenants in respect of estate management companies appointed by developers of residential housing estates; [89869]

(2) what rules or regulations govern the fees that can be charged by estate management companies to *(a)* freeholders, *(b)* leaseholders and *(c)* tenants. [89873]

**Grant Shapps:** The rules and regulations applying to freeholders (homeowners), leaseholders and tenants (in either the private or the public sector) on an estate vary according to the particular housing tenure in which they live.

The fees that freeholders must pay—and arrangements for the upkeep of shared facilities, and the provision of additional services—will depend on the terms of the obligations between the freeholders of the individual properties and the person or company responsible for providing the services. These obligations may take various forms and are generally set out on the land register or in the title deeds. Owners of freehold properties can enforce their rights under such obligations, including in relation to service charges and estate rent charges, through the courts if necessary.

Leaseholders have a wide range of rights and protections which are set out in primary and secondary legislation, and are enforceable through a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal. The fees and charges which a leaseholder must pay will be governed by their individual lease. When accounting for service charges and other fees paid by leaseholders, estate managers (and landlords) should comply with the law and best practice, including that set out in the two Codes of Practice approved by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Any fees and charges to be paid by tenants (in the private and social sectors) will depend, in the first instance, on the terms of their individual tenancy agreement. In the private sector, service charges are normally paid by landlords rather than tenants. However, where—exceptionally—private sector tenants do pay variable service charges, these can be challenged at a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal.

### Local Government Finance: Waste Disposal

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have applied for funds for weekly bin collections in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area to date. [90347]

**Robert Neill:** Further to the announcement by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), during the party conference recess in September, we will be publishing a prospectus shortly inviting bids for funding from the Weekly Collections Support Scheme.

## WALES

### Fuel Rebate

11. **Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* Cabinet colleagues and *(b)* others on a fuel rebate for remote areas of Wales. [89242]

**Mr David Jones:** This is a pilot scheme for remote islands only. Pump prices in these areas are particularly high when compared with the mainland. The Government will need to assess the results of this pilot first, but beyond this nothing has been ruled in or out.

### Youth Unemployment

12. **Mr David:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate she has made of the level of youth unemployment in Wales over the next six months. [89243]

**Mr David Jones:** Today's youth unemployment figures in Wales clearly illustrate the need for us to work alongside the Welsh Government to ensure that young people are fully prepared to enter the labour market.

### Police Numbers

13. **Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate she has made of police numbers in Wales between 2012 and 2015. [89244]

**Mr David Jones:** This information is not collected centrally. It is a matter for the chief constable and the police authority in each force to determine the police numbers that are deployed within the available resource.

### Violent Crime

14. **Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps the Government are taking to tackle violent crime in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [89246]

**Mr David Jones:** The Government are committed to reducing and preventing crime to ensure that people feel safe in their homes and communities.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Air Pollution: Heathrow Airport

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made on reducing levels of emissions of oxides of nitrogen at Heathrow. [89554]

**Richard Benyon:** In September 2011, the UK submitted updated air quality plans to the European Commission that set out how EU limits for nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$) will be met as soon as possible. The plan for Greater London sets out current and planned actions for achieving compliance with the $NO_2$ limits around Heathrow, and can be viewed on the UK air website:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk

Heathrow Airport Ltd has published an air quality strategy for Heathrow airport for 2011 to 2020. A copy of this strategy is available from Heathrow Airport Ltd or online:

www.heathrowairwatch.org.uk

The UK plans package includes many measures to help reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen ($NO_x$). The latest UK emissions data, published in December 2011, show that total UK emissions of $NO_x$ continued to fall in 2010. Total emissions are now within the UK's national emission ceiling for $NO_x$, which is set under the EU National Emission Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC).

### Food Labelling

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85847]

**Mr Paice:** Government buying standards for food and catering were introduced for the first time in June last year. These standards include the overarching commitment that, in line with the industry principles on country of origin information, suppliers should be able to indicate the origin of the meat, meat products and dairy products either on the menu or accompanying literature, or at least when the information is requested by the consumer. These standards are mandatory for central Government and take-up is being encouraged across the public sector.

DEFRA's catering contract with Eurest covers the core of DEFRA, the Rural Payments Agency, the Marine Management Organisation, the Food and Environment Research Agency, the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Natural England, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. Country of origin information is already displayed on menus in core DEFRA sites and this is being rolled out throughout the sites covered by this contract.

The Environment Agency have a separate catering contract from DEFRA. Currently they do not display the country of origin on menus and display boards, however the caterers purchase meat, dairy and bread from local suppliers, within a 50 mile radius of each site. Where available the catering suppliers also buy locally produced vegetables and fruit.

### Debt Recovery

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times her Department has used the services of debt recovery companies since May 2010; which companies were used; and if she will make a statement. [88359]

**Richard Benyon:** The core Department does not use external debt recovery companies as it operates an in-house process for managing debt recovery.

### Food Supply

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether Government food reserves are kept *(a)* on the Isle of Wight, *(b)* in England and *(c)* in the UK for emergencies. [89802]

**Mr Paice:** The Government do not hold reserve stocks of food. The UK is well prepared for unforeseen situations, such as disruptions due to extreme weather, fuel shortages, pandemic flu etc, and has a highly effective food supply chain, providing wide consumer choice. The food retailers have robust and resilient business continuity plans to deal with any threat of disruption and DEFRA works with all parts of the industry to ensure that Government support is provided.

The UK also enjoys access to diverse sources of supply from the EU and other countries, which provides additional resilience in the event of any disruptions to avoid potential food shortages.

### Recreation Spaces

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of applications to register new greens in *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency, *(b)* Medway unitary authority, *(c)* Tonbridge and Malling borough council and *(d)* Kent in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [90340]

**Richard Benyon:** Top-tier local authorities (i.e. counties and unitaries) are responsible for determining applications to register new town and village greens under section 15 of the Commons Act 2005. There is no requirement to report data on greens registration applications to DEFRA. A survey of commons registration authorities was conducted in October 2011 and figures are available for the total number of applications received by Kent county council.

*Kent*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 5 |
| 2008 | 7 |
| 2009 | 10 |
| 2010 | 8 |
| 2011 | 5 |

No figures are available for Chatham and Aylesford constituency, Medway council or Tonbridge and Malling borough council.

### Sewers: Planning

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the automatic inclusion of water and sewerage companies as statutory consultees when planning applications are submitted for developers of 10 or more properties. [89201]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA Ministers and officials have been in regular discussion with their counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government over the reform of planning and the importance of ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is secured to support development. Under the proposals for the reform of planning all planning applications should be considered in the light of the local plan. Water and sewerage companies, as a body affected by the local plan, should be consulted on local plans while they are being drawn up; they are also able to comment on them to the Planning Inspectorate during the validation process. It is for local authorities to ensure that their local plans are fit for purpose and that the necessary infrastructure is available where development is likely to take place.

### Waste Policy Review

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 658W, on the Waste Policy Review, and with reference to paragraph 101 of the review, what assessment she has made of the accuracy of the analysis on the costs and benefits of a UK deposit system. [89892]

**Richard Benyon:** On 16 December 2011, DEFRA published a consultation on targets for the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007. The consultation was accompanied by an impact assessment which includes a full economic assessment of the costs and benefits of introducing a bottle deposit scheme in the UK. DEFRA is now seeking views on the robustness of its analysis.

### Water: Consumption

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department monitors the water consumption rates of individual water companies; and if she will make a statement. [87129]

**Richard Benyon:** The data for the average water consumption in litres per person, per day for 2010-11 for each water company, can be found on page 80 of the recently published Water White Paper in figure xi. An electronic copy can be found online on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/legislation/whitepaper/

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to answer question 77607, on applications from employees to run services, tabled on 26 October 2011 for answer on 31 October 2011; and if she will make a statement. [87679]

**Richard Benyon:** The answer to this question was published on 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1104W. The delay was due to administrative errors.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Catering

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what assessment the House of Commons Commission has made of the availability of healthy food options in *(a)* the Jubilee Café and *(b)* all food outlets on the Parliamentary Estate. [89286]

**John Thurso:** The Jubilee Café provides a snack outlet primarily for the use of visitors to the Palace of Westminster. As such, the menu is designed with that use in mind. Although the lack of a kitchen limits the menu in the Jubilee Café, salads and fresh fruit are available as alternatives to sandwiches and cakes or other high-sugar snacks.

The House of Commons catering service ensures that healthy foods are available in all its food outlets. It does not specifically belong to any formal healthy eating assessment or accreditation scheme, but the guidance available from such schemes is regularly used to inform and educate chefs in the design and development of menus and recipes served throughout the parliamentary estate. In the cafeterias, used by many staff and MPs daily for their main meal, information is provided about the most healthy menu options available through the use of a 'traffic light' marking scheme on printed and on-line menus. Fish and vegetarian dishes feature daily on each cafeteria menu. A very high percentage of cooked meals served in the cafeterias is prepared daily from fresh ingredients, and fresh fruits, salads, low-fat dairy produce and high fibre breads and cereals are always available. Meals served in the dining rooms are similarly prepared from fresh ingredients and include fish and vegetarian options.

### Newspaper Press

**John Mann:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many newspapers were ordered other than for the Members' Library in 2011. [88862]

**John Thurso:** Excluding the Members' Library, the House ordered 71,118 copies of newspapers in 2011 (figures for December 2011 include estimates where invoices have not yet been received). Free copies of the *Evening Standard* were also provided on the estate.

Orders for newspapers in 2012 onwards will be significantly lower than the 2011 total in line with savings commitments and environmental targets.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Coroners

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) for how many of the deaths requiring an inquest which took place between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008 in each short-listed ICD10-code grouping which accounted for 500 or more of the cases, the waiting time between date of death and date of death registration was longer than *(a)* 183 days and *(b)* 365 days; [90368]

(2) for how many of the deaths requiring an inquest which took place between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008 in each ICD-10 chapter which accounted for 1,000 or more of the deaths, the waiting time between date of death and date of death registration was longer than *(a)* 183 days and *(b)* 365 days; [90369]

(3) what the underlying cause of death according to *(a)* ICD-10 chapter and *(b)* short-listed ICD10-code grouping was of coroner-certified deaths which took place between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008; [90370]

(4) for how many deaths registered in England and Wales which took place between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008 *(a)* were certified by a coroner and *(b)* an inquest was held; [90371]

(5) how many deaths were registered in England and Wales with a date of death between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008. [90372]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

1. How many of the deaths requiring an inquest which took place between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008 in each short-listed ICD10-code grouping which accounted for 500 or more of the cases the waiting time between date of death and date of death registration was longer than (a) 183 days and (b) 365 days. (90368)

2. How many of the deaths requiring an inquest which took place between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008 in each ICD-10 chapter which accounted for 1,000 or more of the deaths, the waiting time between date of death and date of registration was longer than (a) 183 days and (b) 365 days. (90369)

3. What the underlying cause of death according to (a) ICD-10 chapter and (b) short-listed ICD-10 code grouping was of coroner-certified deaths which took place between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008. (90370)

4. For how many deaths registered in England and Wales which took place between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008 (a) were certified by a coroner and (b) an inquest was held. (90371)

5. How many deaths were registered in England and Wales with a date of death between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008. (90372)

In response to Question 1 (a, b) and Question 3 (b) above, we are unable to provide figures for the number of deaths certified by a coroner, or for which an inquest was held, broken down by short-listed ICD-10 code. This information is not readily available and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

In response to Question 2, Table 1 provides the number of deaths for which an inquest was held where the waiting time between date of death and date of death registration was longer than (a) 183 and (b) 365 days, in England and Wales, for deaths that occurred between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008. This is broken down by each ICD-10 chapter which accounted for 1,000 or more of the deaths.

In response to Question 3 (a), Table 2 provides the number of coroner-certified deaths grouped by the underlying cause of death according to ICD-10 chapter, that occurred in England and Wales, between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008.

Trusted Statistics - Understanding the UK.

In response to Questions 4 (a, b) and 5, Table 3 provides (i) the number of deaths registered, (ii) the number of deaths certified by a coroner and (iii) the number of deaths for which an inquest was held, in England and Wales, for deaths that occurred between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2008.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age, cause, marital status and place of death are published annually and are available here:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-27475

*Table 1: Number of deaths for which an inquest was held where time between registration and date of death is greater than 183 or 365 days, by ICD-10 chapter, underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 2005-08*[1,2,3,4]

| | | *Deaths* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Over 183 days* | *Over 365 days* |
| Chapter I | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases | 412 | 116 |
| Chapter II | Neoplasms | 3,603 | 807 |
| Chapter IV | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases | 413 | 132 |
| Chapter IX | Diseases of the circulatory system | 3,591 | 964 |
| Chapter V | Mental and behavioural disorders | 1,670 | 370 |
| Chapter VI | Diseases of the nervous system | 753 | 212 |
| Chapter X | Diseases of the respiratory system | 1,729 | 399 |
| Chapter XI | Diseases of the digestive system | 1,570 | 471 |
| Chapter XIII | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue | 513 | 162 |
| Chapter XVIII | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified | 1,771 | 418 |
| Chapter XX | External causes of morbidity and mortality | 24,080 | 6,157 |
| Total | | 40,105 | 10,208 |

*Table 1: Number of deaths for which an inquest was held where time between registration and date of death is greater than 183 or 365 days, by ICD-10 chapter, underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 2005-08*[1,2,3,4]

[1] Figures are for deaths occurring between 2005 and 2008 and include deaths of non-residents.

[2] Figures are presented for ICD-10 chapters which accounted for more than 1,000 deaths

[3] The day and/or date of death is not available for 43 deaths for which an inquest was held. These have been excluded from this table.

[4] Deaths can only be registered once an inquest has taken place. If the inquest is adjourned the death may be registered and a temporary code for underlying cause of death may be given. Deaths given temporary codes are included in Chapter XX.

*Source*:
Office for National Statistics

*Table 2: Number of deaths certified by a coroner, by ICD-10 chapter, underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 2005-08*[1,2,3]

| | | *Deaths* |
|---|---|---|
| Chapter I | Certain infectious and parasitic diseases | 3,123 |
| Chapter II | Neoplasms | 32,516 |
| Chapter III | Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 567 |
| Chapter IV | Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases | 3,509 |
| Chapter V | Mental and behavioural disorders | 6,083 |
| Chapter VI | Diseases of the nervous system | 5,863 |
| Chapter VII | Diseases of the eye and adnexa | 6 |
| Chapter VIII | Diseases of the ear and mastoid process | 22 |
| Chapter IX | Diseases of the circulatory system | 237,392 |
| Chapter X | Diseases of the respiratory system | 43,832 |
| Chapter XI | Diseases of the digestive system | 32,928 |
| Chapter XII | Diseases of the skin and subcutanaeous tissue | 611 |
| Chapter XIII | Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue | 3,678 |

*Table 2: Number of deaths certified by a coroner, by ICD-10 chapter, underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 2005-08*[1,2,3]

| | | Deaths |
|---|---|---|
| Chapter XIV | Diseases of the genitourinary system | 3,550 |
| Chapter XV | Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium | 160 |
| Chapter XVI | Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period | 92 |
| Chapter XVII | Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities | 1,483 |
| Chapter XVIII | Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified | 6,144 |
| Chapter XX | External causes of morbidity and mortality | 59,620 |
| None | Neonatal deaths | 1,113 |

[1] Figures are for deaths occurring between 2005 and 2008and include deaths of non-residents.

[2] No underlying cause of death can be determined from the death certificate used to register neonatal deaths (deaths under 28 days).

[3] Deaths can only be registered once an inquest has taken place. If the inquest is adjourned the death may be registered and a temporary code for underlying cause of death may be given. Deaths given temporary codes are included in Chapter XX.

*Source*:
Office for National Statistics

*Table 3: Number of deaths, England and Wales, 2005-08*[1,2]

| | Deaths |
|---|---|
| Inquest held | 113,469 |
| Certified by coroner | 442,292 |
| Deaths registered | 2,033,714 |

[1] Figures are for deaths occurring between 2005 and 2008 and include deaths of non-residents.

[2] Coroner-certified deaths include cases where an inquest and/or post mortem is held and cases where the death is certified without an inquest.

*Source*:
Office for National Statistics

### Cybercrime: Prosecutions

**Steve Rotheram:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has recently had discussions with the Crown Prosecution Service on steps to improve the prosecution of offences under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003. [90220]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* No, the Home Secretary has had no such discussions recently.

### Border Control

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many frontline UK Border Agency personnel will be on duty at UK borders between 23 December 2011 and 5 January 2012. [87809]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency undertook careful planning for the deployment of resources between 23 December 2011 and 5 January 2012. The plan was developed using data from previous years and data provided by port operators. The UK Border Agency deployed the appropriate level of resources on the information provided to manage the volumes of traffic over this period and responded to adverse weather conditions by redeploying to the areas of greatest need. We are unable to provide an overall figure for deployment at the border as sourcing this information would incur disproportionate cost.

### Entry Clearances: Married People

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 673W, on sham marriages, how many of the 81 non-European nationals granted leave to remain have been *(a)* traced and *(b)* had their leave revoked; and what the outcome has been of the investigation of the remaining 298 cases examined under Operation Gomozia. [89956]

**Damian Green:** The latest management information from Operation Gomozia shows that the number of non-European nationals who were granted leave to remain as a result of marriages at the Church St. Peter and St Paul in St. Leonard's, Sussex has increased from 81 to 105. Of these, 32 have had their leave revoked and are being actively traced by the UK Border Agency. A further 53 of the marriages have been deemed genuine, either by the UK Border Agency or an independent tribunal. A further 20 of those granted leave are still under investigation.

An additional 157 applications for leave to remain from non-European nationals under Operation Gomozia have been refused by the UK Border Agency. These individuals are also being actively traced. Of these, nine non-European nationals have been removed from the United Kingdom. The remaining cases are still being investigated or have been granted leave under another category.

### Khat

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the amount of khat purchased for extraction of cathine and cathinone. [89995]

**Damian Green:** No formal assessment has been made by the Home Office on the amount of khat purchased for the extraction of its active ingredients, cathine and cathinone.

### North Yorkshire Police

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers in the North Yorkshire Police were working on front-line duties on *(a)* 31 March 2010 and *(b)* 31 March 2011; and how many she expects to be doing so on 31 March (i) 2012, (ii) 2013 and (iii) 2014. [69847]

**Nick Herbert:** The available information shows the number of officers in North Yorkshire police working on front-line duties on 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2011. Decisions about the size and deployment of the police workforce are a matter for chief constables to take locally in conjunction with their police authority and, from November 2012, their elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs); therefore estimates for the number of police officers on front-line duties for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are not available centrally.

*Number of police officers in North Yorkshire police force working on front-line duties, as at 31 March 2010 and as at March 2011*[1,2]

| | *2010* | *2011* |
|---|---|---|
| Frontline | 1,306 | 1,283 |
| As a proportion of the total number of officers (percentage) | 88 | 88 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Front-line duties accords with definition used in HMIC's "Demanding Times" report: "The police front-line comprises those who are in everyday contact with the public and who directly intervene to keep people safe and enforce the law". The report also shows the functions which are front-line duties, in some cases roles cut across more than one category, and where this is the case the percentage split is shown. This report can be found from the following link:
http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/demanding-times-062011.pdf

*Source:*
Home Office using data received from police forces via the Annual Data Requirement ADR601

The functions included are shown in the following table.

*Functions (front-line duties)*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Air | 100 |
| Asset confiscation | 80 |
| Burglary | 80 |
| Child/Sex/Domestic/Missing Persons | 100 |
| CID | 70 |
| CID—Specialist Crime Unit | 70 |
| Community Safety/Relations | 100 |
| Police Standards Unit (complaints about the police) | 50 |
| Control Room (Call Handlers) | 60 |
| Custody | 100 |
| Dogs | 100 |
| Drugs | 80 |
| Inquiry/Station Counters | 100 |
| Fingerprint/Photographic | 100 |
| Firearms—Tactical | 100 |
| Firearms—Specialist | 100 |
| Fraud | 80 |
| Hate Crime | 80 |
| Intelligence | 40 |
| Local Commanders | 100 |
| Marine | 100 |
| Mounted | 100 |
| Neighbourhoods | 100 |
| Ports | 100 |
| Probationers (Student Officers) | 100 |
| Response | 100 |
| Scenes of Crime | 100 |
| Special Branch/Protection/ Immigration/Nationality | 100 |
| Surveillance Unit | 100 |
| Technical Support Unit | 80 |
| Traffic | 100 |
| Underwater | 100 |
| Vehicle Crime | 60 |
| Vice | 70 |

## Police Custody: Death

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths in police custody there were in each month since 1 January 2010. [89512]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office does not hold this information. These matters are for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The IPCC has written to the right hon. Member about the information sought. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

## Police Stations: Opening Hours

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of *(a)* police station closures and *(b)* changes to the opening hours of police stations since May 2010. [90002]

**Nick Herbert:** Decisions about the most effective use of available resources, including the number and operating hours of police stations, are a matter for the chief constable and the police authority to take locally.

## Police: Misconduct

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on whether police officers found to have tampered with records of evidence should retain their pension rights. [89776]

**Nick Herbert:** A police authority or elected local policing body can apply to have part of a police pension forfeited where an officer is convicted of an offence, committed in connection with their service as a member of a police force, which is either gravely injurious to the interests of the State or liable to lead to a serious loss of confidence in the public service.

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on disciplining police officers found to have tampered with records of evidence. [89777]

**Nick Herbert:** In addition to the criminal and civil law, police officers are also subject to the Police Conduct Regulations which contain the standards of professional behaviour that police officers are expected to maintain.

Where a police officer has breached those standards, it is for the chief officer or police authority/elected local policing body of the force concerned to consider what, if any, disciplinary action should be taken on a case-by-case basis.

## Prostitution

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of whether the raids and closures of brothels undertaken by the Metropolitan Police during the last 12 months has resulted in a dispersal of sex workers. [90136]

**Nick Herbert:** These are operational matters for the Metropolitan Police Service.

## Stephen Lawrence

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the conduct of the Independent Police Complaints Commission investigation into the relationship between the Metropolitan Police and the families and acquaintances of suspects in the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence; [89082]

(2) whether she plans to examine reports of collusion and corruption between members of the Metropolitan Police and the families and acquaintances of suspects in the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence; [89117]

(3) what assessment she has made of whether reports of corruption and collusion in the investigation by the Metropolitan Police into the murder of Stephen Lawrence have been properly and fully investigated. [89175]

**Nick Herbert:** Allegations of corruption and collusion between members of the Metropolitan Police and families and acquaintances of suspects in the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence were examined by the MacPherson inquiry. The Independent Police Complaints Commission has also investigated complaints from Neville and Doreen Lawrence. If new allegations are made, it will be for the Metropolitan Police Service and the Independent Police Complaints Commission to decide what action to take.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Defence

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what comparative assessment he has made of the defence manpower contribution in Afghanistan of the UK and other NATO members. [88851]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The UK operates in Afghanistan as part of the UN-mandated 50 nation ISAF coalition, with all 28 NATO nations contributing troops. We regularly monitor the manpower contributions of each nation through the ISAF placemat which is publicly available at the following web address:

http://www.isaf.nato.int/images/stories/File/2012-01-06%20ISAF%20Placemat.pdf

### Armed Forces

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* armed forces personnel and *(b)* service families live in each county council area in England; [90275]

(2) what the location is of each *(a)* barracks and *(b)* garrison within each county council area in England; and how many (i) armed forces personnel and (ii) services families each site accommodates. [90276]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* The information is not held in the format requested.

### Counter-Terrorism: Finance

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent in each country on counter-terrorism programmes in each financial year from 2000-01 to 2010-11; and how much he plans to spend on such programmes in each country in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [90447]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* Funds are allocated to Defence Engagement Counter Terrorism (CT) activities under the Defence Assistance Fund (DAF). The DAF(CT) total worldwide budget since 2007 has been as follows:

| *Financial year* | *DAF (CT) Budget (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1.24 |
| 2008-09 | 1.74 |
| 2009-10 | 1.36 |
| 2010-11 | 3.01 |
| 2011-12 | 2.42 |

In each financial year the budget is divided into individual projects with key partner nations. Due to the sensitive nature of CT activities we cannot provide details of spend in particular countries.

Before FY 2007-08 CT activities were not allocated under a separately identifiable fund. Future budgets for DAF(CT) have yet to be agreed and are under consideration as part of the wider departmental annual budget setting process.

### Defence Equipment

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which countries UK military equipment is based. [90445]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* There is no central list of UK military equipment holdings worldwide but Ministry of Defence equipment, such as communications, will be used by British personnel in all 80 locations where there is an enduring military presence. This presence may be a military base, Defence Staff in an embassy, Loan Service personnel or another UK contingent conducting long term training missions or supporting a multinational operation.

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in each of the public bodies for which his Department is responsible between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011, *(b)* April 2011 and March 2012 and *(c)* April 2012 and March 2013; [88740]

(2) how much funding his Department allocated to sponsor apprenticeships in his Department in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in 2012-13. [89136]

**Mr Robathan:** The armed forces draw down approximately £38 million per year from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to support apprenticeship delivery. Little change is envisaged in this figure over the next two years.

The MOD costs associated with this exercise cannot be separated from other areas of the business and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The civilian apprenticeship schemes ran at an approximate operating cost of £710,000 for financial year 2010-11. The estimated operating costs for FY 2011-12 are approximately £660,000. Operating costs for FY 2012-13 are not finalised but are estimated to have little or no change to the FY 2011-12 figure.

### Data Protection

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who in his Department can access *(a)* protected, *(b)* restricted, *(c)* confidential, *(d)* secret and *(c)* top secret documents. [90412]

**Mr Robathan:** The MOD operates from the fundamental security principles set out in the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework. Access to sensitive information or assets is only granted to those who have a business need and who meet the appropriate personnel security controls (Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) or National Security Vetting (NSV)). This 'need to know' principle is fundamental to the security of all protectively marked Government assets.

This principle applies to all protective markings. However, the number of people with a need to know top secret information will be substantially fewer than the number with a need to know restricted information.

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance is provided to officials in his Department to ensure that protective marking of documents is used for national security purposes and does not restrict the principles of open and transparent government. [90413]

**Mr Robathan:** On the subject of guidance provided to officials I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 421W. Further to that answer, the Protect marking is available for material whose loss or compromise would have a negative impact but which does not involve any National Security concerns.

The MOD is fully committed to the Government's Transparency and Open Data policies and proactively releases information that it believes will be of interest to the public, commerce and industry. The application of a protective marking does not in itself exclude the authorised disclosure of information (such as requests under the Freedom of Information Act). Departmental guidance on disclosure of information includes procedures for declassifying information to permit release.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff were employed in the private office of *(a)* each Minister in his Department, *(b)* each of the service chiefs, *(c)* the Chief of Defence Staff, *(d)* the Permanent Under-Secretary and *(e)* the Second Permanent Under-Secretary; and what the cost to his Department was of such employment. [88311]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** As at 9 January 2012, there were a total of 61 members of staff employed in the private offices of Defence Ministers, the Chief of Defence Staff, Service Chiefs, the Permanent Under-Secretary and the Second Permanent Under-Secretary, at an estimated cost of £3,983,567 per annum. However, the Second Permanent Under-Secretary shares a combined private office with the Vice Chief of Defence Staff and this combined office size (and cost) is reflected in the figures provided.

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89388]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The Ministry of Defence has two full-time speechwriter posts. They are both civil service posts, one at Band B1 and one at Band C1.

### Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89676]

**Mr Robathan:** A close and effective link between pay and performance is a key element of the reward arrangements for the civil service. The performance element of pay is colloquially known as a bonus, but it is a misleading description because the performance-related element of pay is not additional, it is part of the departmental pay bill. This total pay bill was agreed by the previous Government as part of a three year pay deal.

For the senior civil service, performance incentives are paid primarily as non-consolidated performance payments. Any award is based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed against their peers and awards are made to those judged to have made the greatest in-year contribution to business objectives. There is no restriction on the nature of the contribution but it must benefit both the Department or Defence as a whole. Recommendations for awards are considered by moderation committees and must be linked to clear evidence of delivery.

All satisfactory performers at SCS level were eligible to be considered for a non-consolidated performance award in line with Cabinet Office guidelines and the MOD pay strategy.

Table 1 as follows details how much was paid to members of the SCS in non-consolidated performance payments in financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Senior fixed term employees are individuals who are recruited through fair and open competition from outside the civil service. Those employed as senior fixed term appointees (FTAs) are on individual contracts and have a higher percentage of pay allocated to performance awards which are judged against stringent and stretching delivery based objectives. Some have staged payments and it is now usual to pay a smaller annual performance award with the remainder deferred for two to three years and judged against the delivery of medium to longer term objectives. Performance is judged by line management with assistance from senior officials, stakeholders, remuneration committees and in some cases internal audit.

Details of how much has been paid in non-consolidated awards in financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12 are shown below in Table 2.

Table 3 shows the monetary values of the largest non-consolidated payments made in the last two years to the combined SCS population of permanent staff and fixed term appointees.

*Table 1: SCS permanent staff*

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| *Performance year* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| *FY* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
| Value of awards paid | 995,500 | 505,500 |

*Table 2: SCS Fixed Term Appointees*

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| *SCS FTA Performance year* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| *FY* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
| Value of awards paid | 557,293 | [1]519,193 |

[1] One yet be decided

*Table 3: Top 20 highest non-consolidated awards for combined SCS population*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| FY 2010-11 | 73,080 |
| | 49,937 |
| | 49,900 |
| | 48,720 |
| | 35,113 |
| | 31,668 |
| | 26,715 |
| | 25,755 |
| | 22,888 |
| | 22,153 |
| | 17,000 |
| | 16,100 |
| | 15,750 |
| | 15,605 |
| | 15,000 |
| | 15,000 |
| | 13,800 |
| | 12,500 |
| | 12,500 |
| | 12,500 |
| FY 2011-12 | 85,831 |
| | 69,459 |
| | 49,950 |
| | 49,500 |
| | 48,720 |
| | 33,833 |
| | 25,578 |
| | 20,554 |
| | 19,492 |
| | 19,184 |
| | 17,637 |
| | 15,415 |
| | 12,500 |
| | 12,180 |
| | 11,250 |
| | 10,000 |
| | 9,000 |
| | 9,000 |
| | 9,000 |
| | 9,000 |

*Note:*

Figures for FTA awards for FY 2010-11 differ from those published previously but now reflect outstanding award decisions which were still under consideration when figures were published initially.

For staff below the SCS, non-consolidated performance awards are paid to staff who meet the eligibility criteria. Higher levels of award are available for those who have contributed most to the business. These awards are distributed on the basis of relative assessment among peers and are designed to encourage continuous high attainment against stretching objectives.

The MOD also operates an in year non-consolidated payment scheme, the Special Bonus Scheme (SBS), which rewards eligible MOD civilians for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of a professional qualification the use of which benefits MOD and the individual. Separate arrangements apply to Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) officers.

The following table details the total value of payments made to staff below the SCS by way of non consolidated performance payments and SBS awards by financial year.

| *Financial year* | *Total value of awards made (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 43,521,423 |

Payments made since 1 April 2011 are detailed in the departmental transparency data

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Salaries/NonconsolidatedPerformanceAwards.htm

This response excludes information on staff below the SCS in MOD Trading funds which have separate pay delegations.

With the exception of the National Museum of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force Museum, figures for the Department's non-departmental public bodies are included in the figures above.

*Non consolidated performance awards—The National Museum of the Royal Navy:*

The following table details the total value of payments made to staff by way of non consolidated performance payments awards by financial year.

| | | *Value of largest 20 payments* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Financial year* | *Total value of awards made (£)* | *Number* | *(£)* |
| 2009-10 | 5,203 | All | 141 |
| 2010-11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

The National Museum of the Royal Navy has no special bonus scheme.

*Non consolidated performance awards—The Royal Air Force Museum:*

The following table details the total value of payments made to staff by way of non consolidated performance payments awards by financial year.

| Financial year | Total value of awards made (£) | Value of largest 20 payments<br>Number | (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 69,350 | All | 1,650 |
| 2010-11 | 55,650 | 1 | 3,325 |
| | | 1 | 1,825 |
| | | 3 | 675 |
| | | 15 | 325 |

The Department currently has over 600 pay-related allowances and payments in addition to salary available to civilian staff. The majority of which are listed on the People, Pay and Pensions Agency services website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/
https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/
index@page=content&id=us131&cat=pay_and_expenses
&actp=list.htm

Information on the monetary value of each type of allowance and payment is available, but will take a short while to compile. I will write to the hon. Member with the details as soon as possible.

### HMS Affray

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will re-open a full inquiry into the causes of the sinking of HMS Affray on 16 April 1951. [90454]

**Peter Luff:** The loss of HMS Affray on 16 April 1951 was a tragic accident resulting in the loss of all 75 on board. While I fully sympathise with those families affected by the loss, I can see no reason to disagree with the findings of the Board of Inquiry undertaken at the time, or what purpose would be served by a new Inquiry.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Danish helicopter pilots have been trained on the Merlin Helicopter at RAF Benson; and for how many flight hours. [89989]

**Nick Harvey:** A total of eight Danish personnel comprising five pilots and three rear crewmen (air loadmasters) have trained on Merlin helicopters alongside their British counterparts at RAF Benson. The flying hours can be broken down as follows:

| | Merlin flying hours | Simulator hours |
|---|---|---|
| Pilot 1 | 723:15 | 84:00 |
| Pilot 2 | 355:50 | 131:30 |
| Pilot 3 | 351:40 | 133:00 |
| Pilot 4 | 694:15 | 78:30 |
| Pilot 5 | 378:15 | 225:45 |
| Crewman 1 | 599:20 | 65:15 |
| Crewman 2 | 309:25 | 140:45 |
| Crewman 3 | 299:05 | 110:30 |
| Total hours | 3,711:05 | 969:15 |

### Military Bases

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Livingston (Graeme Morrice) of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 89W, on military bases: Kirknewton, on what dates he discussed the proposed creation of an Army base at Kirknewton; what the *(a)* names and *(b)* positions held are of those who attended the discussions; and whether a written record was taken of the discussions. [86642]

**Nick Harvey:** The creation of an Army base at Kirknewton was considered as part of the 2010 Basing review. The previous and current Secretaries of State for Defence have taken a detailed interest in the review and have held numerous discussions on the review with officials within the Ministry of Defence; with colleagues across Government, with local and national Governments; and in response to representations from members of the public.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which countries the UK has basing rights; and for how many bases in each such country. [90035]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The UK has established basing agreements for its armed forces with a number of countries for operational and training purposes. The countries and number of locations in each country for which we have a basing agreement are set out as follows:

Afghanistan—4 main operating bases
Bahrain—1 location
Belize—1 location
Brunei—1 location
Canada—1 location
Germany—4 main garrison locations
Kenya—3 locations
Oman—1 location
Qatar—1 location
UAE—1 location

These are in addition to bases operated by the UK in Cyprus, Gibraltar, Diego Garcia, Ascension Island and the Falkland Islands.

### Navy: Manpower

**Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the retention rates were for *(a)* female and *(b)* male (i) officers and (ii) ratings in the Royal Navy in each of the last five years. [89783]

**Mr Robathan:** The information requested is not available. Information on Voluntary outflow, together with length of service information (although this is not available by gender) is available on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice website at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=2710&date=2012-01-12&type=pdf&PublishTime=09:30:00

### Radioactive Waste: Dalgety Bay

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Minister of State to visit Dalgety Bay; and whether he plans to meet representatives of the *(a)* local community council and *(b)* sailing club. [90473]

**Mr Robathan:** I will be visiting Dalgety Bay at the end of January 2012. This visit will include meeting representatives of the local community council and sailing club.

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects his meeting with the right hon. Member for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath to discuss radiation contamination at Dalgety Bay to take place. [90474]

**Mr Robathan:** Estates matters such as the issue of radiation contamination at Dalgety Bay fall under my area of responsibility as Minister for Defence Personnel Welfare and Veterans. I will be visiting the site at the end of January 2012 to discuss the issue.

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will delineate the areas at Dalgety Bay where radiation contamination is believed to be present. [90475]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence remains committed to assisting the Scottish Environment Protection Agency in identifying areas where radioactive material is believed to be buried and delivering a credible investigation plan for Dalgety Bay.

**Mr Gordon Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on acceptance of liability for remedial action in relation to radiation contamination at Dalgety Bay; and if he will make a statement. [90476]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence policy on the acceptance of liability pertaining to alienated sites is set out in our Memorandum of Understanding with the Environment Agency and Joint Service Publication 418 volume 2 leaflet 2. Copies of these will be placed in the Library of the House.

The MOD is currently considering the draft Summary of Evidence provided by Scottish Environment Protection Agency and is undertaking its own investigations.

Until such time as our inquiries are completed the Ministry of Defence is not in a position to comment further on liability in relation to Dalgety Bay.

### Security

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work his Department undertakes on *(a)* security management and *(b)* security prevention with (i) Canada, (ii) China, (iii) France, (iv) Belgium, (v) Ireland, (vi) Italy, (vii) Norway, (viii) Spain, (ix) Sweden, (x) Switzerland, (xi) Poland, (xii) India, (xiii) Russia, (xiv) Denmark, (xv) South Africa, (xvi) Turkey, (xvii) Mexico, (xviii) Japan, (xix) Germany, (xx) the US and (xxi) the Netherlands. [90465]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence has in place a number of bilateral relationships with the 21 countries listed by the right hon. Member, which allows it to address defence and security issues of mutual or common concern. These relationships range from Defence Attaches through to full Defence Treaties. I will write with the details on each. In addition, the UK's engagement in various multilateral forums, including the UN, NATO and the EU, further ensures that defence and security issues are regularly discussed with the majority of these nations.

Security prevention is not a term used by the MOD or Her Majesty's Government. The Building Stability Overseas Strategy (BSOS) outlines HMG's approach to conflict prevention and sets out clear proposals for how we can improve the way we identify and prevent instability and conflict overseas by using our diplomatic, development, defence and security tools; and by working with our international partners.

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* security situation and *(b)* threat level in (i) Canada, (ii) China, (iii) France, (iv) Belgium, (v) Ireland, (vi) Italy, (vii) Norway, (viii) Spain, (ix) Sweden, (x) Switzerland, (xi) Poland, (xii) India, (xiii) Russia, (xiv) Denmark, (xv) South Africa, (xvi) Turkey, (xvii) Mexico, (xviii) Japan, (xix) Germany, (xx) the US and (xxi) the Netherlands. [90466]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence regularly feeds into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's travel advice which is a public central focal point for security and threat assessments including the 21 nations listed.

## TREASURY

### Adam Werritty

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Adam Werritty on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78867]

**Miss Chloe Smith** *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* No meetings have taken place between Treasury Ministers or special advisers and Adam Werritty since May 2010.

Information relating to officials' meetings is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Care Quality Commission: Redundancy Pay

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of special severance payments notified to HM Treasury by the Care Quality Commission in each of the last three years. [89477]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* Special severance payments notified to HM Treasury by the Care Quality Commission over the last three years involved varying sums between £500 and £50,000, amounting to up to £107,000 in total.

The Treasury's aim is to ensure payments are justifiable. The first part of this process is to assess whether settlement itself is justified (e.g. in the case of an employment tribunal claim, that legal advice indicates that the body would lose the case). The second part of the process then concentrates on whether the level of settlement is justified (again, in the case of employment tribunal claim, the comparator would the legal assessment of the likely tribunal award) and provides value for money (for the Exchequer as a whole, rather than simply the body concerned). The final part of the process is to consider whether lessons can be learned and systems improved to avoid future occurrences.

### Children: Day Care

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider making child care fully tax deductable; and if he will make a statement. [90356]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The Government currently have no plans to make child care fully tax deductable.

The Government realises that the cost of child care is one of the most important factors for parents when considering returning to, or progressing in, work. However, providing universal free or subsidised child care is unaffordable. Allowing tax exemptions for child care would result in a shortfall of revenue, and mean either further reductions in spending or raising revenue elsewhere, for example through increasing overall tax limits to account for the loss. In a world with limited resources, the Government have to prioritise support for child care on those who need it most.

### Devolution: Finance

**Dr Alasdair McDonnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Barnett consequentials will accrue to each devolved Administration from expenditure on the High Speed 2 rail network. [90262]

**Danny Alexander:** Allocations to the devolved Administrations are made in the form of block grants. It is not possible to identify consequentials for individual spending items within the total grant. Once the detailed budgeting and funding arrangements have been decided Barnett consequentials will be allocated in the normal way.

### Import Duties: China

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent reports he has received of the underpricing of imports from China for the purposes of import duty evasion; and if he will make a statement. [89847]

**Mr Gauke:** The European Commission has advised member states of concerns regarding the undervaluation of certain imports into the European Union from China. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is working with its EU partners to establish the extent of the undervaluation. Where undervaluation is identified HMRC will take appropriate enforcement action.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the loss of import duties through the underpricing of goods from China in the latest period for which figures are available. [89848]

**Mr Gauke:** Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs do not have the estimate requested as they do not break down the information in this way. HMRC carries out regular audit checks on importers to ensure that they are declaring the correct value for their imports.

### Insurance

**Jonathan Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the Financial Services Authority on mutual insurers and friendly societies in relation to with-profits business since May 2010. [R] [90238]

**Mr Hoban:** The Treasury has regular discussions with the Financial Services Authority on a wide range of insurance sector issues, including issues linked to mutual insurers and friendly societies. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Pensions

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the Government Actuary Department's decision to reduce the limit on withdrawals from income drawdown pension schemes from 120% to 100%; and if he will make a statement. [90341]

**Danny Alexander:** The decision to reduce the maximum annual withdrawal limit for drawdown pensions from 120% to 100% of the value of a comparable annuity was taken by the Government following extensive public consultation on reforms to remove the effective requirement to purchase an annuity by age 75.

The impact on people with income drawdown pension schemes is as follows:

if younger than 75, their maximum income withdrawal is around 17% lower than it would otherwise have been and

if aged 75 or over, their maximum income withdrawal is around 11% higher than it would otherwise have been.

A Taxes Impact and Information Note for the measure was published on 9 December 2010 on the website of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

### Public Sector Debt

**Mr Frank Roy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the national debt can be attributed to each economic sector; and how much of the national debt is owed to each *(a)* country, *(b)* private company and *(c)* other organisation. [90411]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** It is not possible to apportion Public Sector Net Debt to specific economic sectors. Debt reflects accumulated deficits, which in turn reflects the difference between total Government spending and whole-economy tax receipts.

Data published by the Office for National Statistics and Bank of England shows that at end-September 2011:

*(a)* The market value of gilt holdings by overseas investors totalled £354.7 billion (30.7% of the total stock);

*(b)* The market value of gilt holdings by private companies (insurance companies, pension funds, bank, building societies, other financial institutions and private non-financial companies) totalled £571.7 billion (49.5% of the total stock); and

*(c)* The market value of gilt holdings by other organisations (Bank of England Asset Purchase Facility, households. local authorities and public corporations) totalled £227.7 billion (19.7% of the total stock).

### Renewable Energy: Scotland

**Mr Davidson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding has been provided to the Scottish Government as Barnett consequentials as a result of expenditure on the promotion and use of renewable energy sources in each of the last five years. [90364]

**Danny Alexander:** Allocations to Scotland and the other devolved Administrations are made in the form of block grants. It is not possible to identify consequentials for individual spending items within the total grant.

The following table contains the Barnett consequentials since 2009-10 in relation to changes to the budget of the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

*£ million*

| | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Budget 2009 | 21.8 | 5.7 | — | — | — | — |
| Pre Budget Report 2009 | 0 | 4.0 | — | — | — | — |
| 2010 Spending Review | — | — | 2.1 | 10.5 | 13.3 | 17.4 |
| Fossil Fuel Levy | — | — | 103 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

**Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the monetary value is of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) contracts with *(a)* Teleperformance and *(b)* Sitel for 12-month trials of provision of telephony services in HMRC's contact centres in (i) Bathgate and (ii) Lillyhall; [90021]

(2) for what reason Teleperformance's advertisement for staff to work on the 12-month contract with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for telephone advice services from HMRC's contact centre in Bathgate is for permanent staff; and if he will make a statement. [90022]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the contracts for 12-month trials of private sector telephony services in HM Revenue and Customs contact centres in Bathgate and Lillyhall. [90023]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 69W.

The payment terms in each contract are commercially sensitive and it would not be appropriate to disclose them at this time. However I can confirm that HMRC have estimated the combined total cost to the public purse of both contracts over the expected 12 month life of the trial, to be around £4 million. The terms private sector companies decide to offer to potential employees when advertising private sector posts are matters for them and not for Ministers nor HMRC.

### Taxation: Bingo

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to reduce the level of gross profit tax levied on bingo club operators. [90469]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The Government keep all taxes under review and tax policy is made at Budget.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the bingo industry on the relationship between bingo gross profits tax and total tax revenue from the gaming sector. [90470]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** Treasury Ministers and officials meet, and receive representations from, a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on bingo taxation. [90471]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the rate of gross profit tax levied on *(a)* bingo clubs and *(b)* bookmakers; and for what reasons there is a difference between the two rates. [90472]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The rates of both general betting duty and bingo duty were set by the previous Government. Bingo duty is charged at 20% of gross profits and general betting duty is charged at 15% of gross profits. The March 2011 Budget left rates unchanged. All taxes, including gambling taxes, are kept under review.

### Taxation: Self-assessment

**Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the average tax underpayment calculated for those using the online self-assessment service. [89907]

**Mr Gauke:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Travel: Insurance

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the insurance industry on affordability of travel insurance for people with secondary cancer which has been dormant for a prolonged period. [90462]

**Mr Hoban:** Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

I understand that some cover is available for people with cancer wishing to travel abroad and finding insurance is getting easier for individuals with pre-existing medical conditions. Advice and information are available from industry and relevant cancer charities.

### VAT: Sanitary Protection

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to reduce the level of VAT levied on sanitary products for women to zero per cent; and if he will make a statement. [89957]

**Mr Gauke:** It is not possible to reduce the rate of VAT on women's sanitary products to zero. The UK retains its zero rates of VAT under longstanding formal agreements with other member states. Under the terms of those agreements, we cannot extend the scope of existing zero rates nor introduce new ones. The current rate of VAT on women's sanitary products is 5%, the lowest rate allowed under our agreements with European partners.

### Economic Policy

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have read "The Wealth of Nations" by Adam Smith. [89938]

**Mr Hoban:** Treasury Ministers and officials consider a wide range of views from a variety of sources to provide the historical and international context to the UK's economic policy.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will review the operation of the licence fee to ensure that the BBC's operations and expenditure in the West Midlands will continue to support the regional economy and creative arts. [89440]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government supports regional television production as it benefits regional economies and is good for the UK's cultural diversity.

Within the framework of the BBC Charter, however, the BBC is operationally and editorially independent of the Government and there is no provision for the Government to intervene. The BBC is required to meet quotas for television production outside of London but it is for the BBC to determine how the quotas are achieved.

The BBC's Delivering Quality First (DQF) review includes a proposal to move factual programming for BBC television and Radio 4 out of Birmingham but to increase television production investment with independent producers in the Midlands. The Government awaits the conclusions of the DQF review with interest.

The creative arts benefit from licence fee funding in a number of ways, for example, support for The Space, an exciting digital arts media project being run by the BBC in partnership with the Arts Council.

### Speechwriters

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many speechwriters his Department employs at each pay grade. [89404]

**John Penrose:** This Department currently employs one speechwriter at Grade A (Civil Service Grade 7 equivalent). In addition to their role as a speechwriter, they also have responsibility for strategic communication.

### Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89694]

**John Penrose:** The information in table 1 shows how much officials in this Department received in *(a)* performance related payments, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments in additional to basic pay in each of the last two years.

*Table 1*

| *Type of payment* | *Financial year 2009–10* *Total (£)* | *Financial Year 2010-011* *Total (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Performance related payments | 608,587 | 735,259 |
| Allowances | 344,294 | 366,100 |
| Other payments—overtime | 229,663 | 61,996 |

The categories of payment that may be made available to officials are:

*(a) Performance related payments:*

These payments were made to employees for two purposes: in year payments to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations with small one-off payments, and performance related payments to reward highly successful performance over a whole appraisal year. Awards were made in line with Cabinet Office principles, Civil Service Pay guidelines on performance-related pay.

There are a small number of people within the Department, primarily in Olympic related roles, who are employed on fixed term contracts with performance related elements.

*(b) Allowances:*

In addition to base salaries, allowances are paid to assist in the recruitment and retention of staff in certain specialist posts. Since 2009, the Department has used an allowance system in place of overtime for those staff working in ministerial offices.

*(a) Overtime:*

There are times when it may be necessary for employees to work overtime to meet business needs. Overtime is a short term measure to deal with a specific situation such as a backlog of work or exceptional pressure of work.

The information in table 2 shows what the monetary value was of the 20 largest payments made in each of the last two years:

*Table 2*

£

| | *Type of payment* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Performance related payments* | | *Allowance* | | *Overtime* | |
| *Largest 20 payments* | *2010-11* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* | *2009-10* |
| 1 | 187,500 | 49,500 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,850 | 2,484 |
| 2 | 130,000 | 40,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 3,756 | 2,178 |
| 3 | 20,000 | 12,500 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 3,658 | 2,160 |
| 4 | 10,500 | 12,500 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 3,030 | 1,543 |
| 5 | 10,500 | 12,500 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 2,445 | 1,489 |
| 6 | 8,000 | 12,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 2,415 | 1,363 |
| 7 | 8,000 | 11,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 2,131 | 1,342 |
| 8 | 8,000 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 2,097 | 1,325 |
| 9 | 8,000 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 2,076 | 1,277 |
| 10 | 8,000 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 2,022 | 1,262 |
| 11 | 8,000 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,930 | 1,244 |
| 12 | 8,000 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,880 | 1,220 |
| 13 | 7,300 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,859 | 1,041 |
| 14 | 5,500 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,814 | 1000 |
| 15 | 5,500 | 9,500 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,787 | 953 |
| 16 | 5,500 | 8,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,701 | 923 |
| 17 | 5,500 | 8,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,611 | 835 |
| 18 | 5,500 | 8,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,594 | 817 |
| 19 | 1,850 | 8,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,513 | 805 |
| 20 | 1,600 | 8,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 1,419 | 798 |

We do not hold data centrally for our arm's length bodies. Accordingly, I have asked their chief executives to write directly to my hon. Friend the Member for Witham.

Copies of the replies will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on how many occasions he has visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months; and whom he met on each such visit. [90365]

**John Penrose:** In 2011 the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), as part of a series of Local TV summits, visited Newport on 26 August, and both Glasgow and Belfast on 9 September. As part of the Summits, he met a range of interested parties, including established media organisations, new media entrants and community media groups. There were 100 attendees in Newport, 65 attendees in Glasgow and 60 attendees in Belfast. In addition, on 9 September he met the Scottish Minister for Culture and External Affairs to discuss broadband, local TV and Scottish broadcasting.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what guidelines his Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89403]

**John Penrose:** This Department has not issued specific advice to its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) on the employment of unpaid interns. However, if advice is sought from the Department, NDPBs are referred to "The Common Best Practice Guide for High Quality Internships" published by the Gateways to the Professions Collaborative Forum, which can be found on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/higher-education/docs/c/11-1068-common-best-practice-code-for-quality-internships.pdf

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Atos Healthcare

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of claimants participating in the Atos Quality Survey in each region rated Atos Healthcare's performance as *(a)* very good, *(b)* good, *(c)* poor and *(d)* very poor in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011. [90236]

**Chris Grayling:** Unfortunately the information requested above is not available in the format requested.

The answer could be provided in the requested format only at disproportionate costs exceeding the disproportionate cost limit of £800 for parliamentary questions.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88962]

**Chris Grayling:** The following new secondary legislation and legally binding guidance brought forward by my Department and brought into force in 2010 and 2011 originated from proposals made by the European Commission before 2010:

The Occupational, Personal and Stakeholder Pensions (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/615);

The Application of Pension Legislation to the National Employment Savings Trust Corporation Regulations (SI 2010/8);

The Biocidal Products (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/745);

The Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1140);

The Transfer of State Pensions and Benefits (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1825);

The Occupational Pensions (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2161;

The Application of Pension Legislation to the National Employment Savings Trust Corporation Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/673); and

HSE publication EH40/2005: Workplace Exposure Limits.

No new legislation or guidance has been brought into force by my Department which originated from European Commission proposals made in 2010 and 2011.

### Remploy

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 384W, on Remploy: social enterprises, how many requests to waive the recruitment freeze his Department has received from Remploy since the freeze began; and what assessment he has made of the effects of the freeze on the viability of factories bidding for contracts. [90455]

**Maria Miller:** Since the freeze on external recruitment across the civil service and its related non-departmental public bodies, the Department has received requests from Remploy to recruit externally across the business for 302 posts. Of these 35 were for the Enterprise Businesses and 25 of these were approved. Requests relating to the Enterprise Businesses have in the main been for management and business support posts, such as key account and sales managers. The remaining 267 requests relate to posts in Employment Services, of which 200 have been approved.

I am not aware of any effect the freeze has had on the viability of factories bidding for contracts.

### Social Security Benefits: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average total level of benefits received per household was in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley in the latest period for which figures are available. [90524]

**Chris Grayling:** While information on DWP administered benefits is available at constituency level, we do not hold complete information on those benefits administered by other Government Departments and organisations. Restricting analysis to those benefits administered directly by DWP may present a misleading picture of benefit receipt. In addition, we estimate that developing an appropriate methodology and quality assuring any analysis of DWP administrative data would exceed disproportionate cost limits.

According to the latest release of the Family Resource Survey (FRS), the median weekly household income from benefits and tax credits for households with at least one member in receipt of at least one benefit or tax credit in the United Kingdom in 2009-10 was £141. The sample size of the FRS is not large enough to provide robust estimates at the constituency or borough level.

*Notes*:

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest pound.

2. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors that control for tenure type, council tax band and a number of demographic variables.

3. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-sampling bias.

4. The FRS is known to under-record benefit receipt. Please see table M6 of Chapter 7 of the latest publication for more information:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2009_10/frs_2009_10_report.pdf

5. These figures have not been adjusted to account for different household sizes.

6. A household refers to a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (i.e. a living room). A household will consist of one or more benefit units.

### Unemployment: Graduates

**Mr George Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many graduates are registered as unemployed in each parliamentary constituency. [90661]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many graduates are registered as unemployed in each parliamentary constituency in the UK (90661).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Unfortunately the sample size does not support analyses of graduate unemployment at parliamentary constituency level.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

### Work Capability Assessments

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment and support allowance claimants in each region were asked to participate in the Atos Quality Survey *(a)* before learning the outcome of their work capability assessment and *(b)* after learning the outcome of their work capability assessment in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011. [90237]

**Chris Grayling:** Neither Atos Healthcare nor Wyman Dillon, the market research company which carries out the Atos quality survey on their behalf, know if a claimant has received the outcome of their work capability assessment when they participate in the survey as the entitlement to benefit decision is issued by the DWP.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 24 of Professor Malcolm Harrington's report, An Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment—year two, what discussions he has had with the Tribunal Service on the provision of statistical information to the Harrington Review in relation to the monitoring of appeal outcomes within and between tribunals. [90307]

**Chris Grayling:** Professor Harrington has not, to date, asked the Department to request this statistical information on his behalf.

As his second independent review makes clear Professor Harrington intends to continue to pursue his recommendations relating to the Tribunal Service over the coming year, including the monitoring of appeals outcomes within and between Tribunals.

The Department supports this work and believe it could have a positive impact on the WCA process as a whole.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 10 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment, what progress has been made on the national implementation of the Decision Maker's Justification to all employment and support allowance claimants found not to have limited capability for work. [90308]

**Chris Grayling:** National implementation activity commenced in December 2011 to issue the Decision Maker's reasons to incapacity benefit (IB) reassessment and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants found to have no limited capability for work following the WCA and disallowed ESA on and after 23 January 2012.

The Decision Maker's Reasoning (previously referred to as Decision Maker's Justification) will provide these claimants with a clear explanation of the decision and all the evidence considered by the Decision Maker not just the Atos assessment. This along with the disallowance call, introduced as part of the ESA changes in October 2011, delivers the intended aim of Professor Harrington's year one recommendation.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 12 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment, if he will publish the proposals developed by Mind, Mencap and the National Autistic Society for refinements to the mental function descriptors of the work capability assessment. [90312]

**Chris Grayling:** We currently have no plans to formally publish the report submitted by Professor Harrington to us on the mental, intellectual and cognitive descriptors. Professor Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment contains a precis of the reports recommendations.

A copy of the Mind, Mencap and the National Autistic Society report is available in the House Library.

On 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 654W, answers to questions PQ 90313 and PQ 90314 update on the progress with this work.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 13 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment, how many Quality Assessment Framework events have been held since July 2011, by region. [90315]

**Chris Grayling:** The Quality Assessment Framework was introduced in July for incapacity benefit (IB) reassessment decisions and in August for employment and support allowance (ESA) decisions. Since then quality checks on decisions have been completed and feedback and improvement discussions completed on a regular basis between managers and individual Decision Makers in order to improve the quality and consistency of decision making.

In addition, to ensure the consistent application of standards in the Quality Assessment Framework, a national calibration exercise was held in November, followed by similar events at DWP Group level. These were timed to allow for the framework and checking regime to bed in.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 14 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment, what steps his Department takes following the receipt of more than one C-grade assessment by an Atos-approved healthcare professional. [90319]

**Chris Grayling:** Atos are responsible for the performance management of their health care professionals. Any health care professional who generates a C grade report receives mandatory feedback. Subsequent action may include targeted audit or retraining if required. The DWP Chief Medical Adviser will revoke approval to carry out assessments if there is persistent failure to achieve a satisfactory standard, despite remedial action by Atos.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 16 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, what progress he has made in implementing recommendation one of Professor Harrington's year one recommendation. [90320]

**Chris Grayling:** Enhanced support for employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants was introduced via a phased national approach, which commenced in June and was completed on 31 October 2011. Claimants will benefit from a new letter explaining the WCA process; and a telephone call by the DWP Decision Maker to explain the decision made on their claim. DWP endorses Professor Harrington's year two recommendation to monitor the impact of the year one changes and evaluation is currently under way.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 16 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment, how many unannounced visits to *(a)* benefits delivery centres and *(b)* Atos medical assessment centres took place in each region in 2011. [90322]

**Chris Grayling:** Pages 24 and 25 of Professor Harrington's second independent review of the WCA cover his unannounced visits in 2011.

He visited Gloucester and Merthyr Tydfil Benefit Delivery Centres. He did not make any unannounced visits to Atos sites.

The Government accepted Professor Harrington's recommendation to make further unannounced visits to both Benefit Delivery Centres and Atos assessment centres in 2012. We will leave it to Professor Harrington to decide where and when he will make these visits, and look forward to his feedback on completed visits.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 17 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, when his Department's training products guidance and handbook sections were last updated following consultation with representative groups and their medical advisers. [90323]

**Chris Grayling:** The Revised WCA handbook was last revised on 4 October 2011 incorporating information from the Migraine Trust. The latest guidance to be developed in conjunction with a representative group was a distance learning module on violence against women and girls developed in conjunction with South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre which was issued in May 2011.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 18 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, on what date he plans to publish part one of his Department's research into what happens to people found fit for work, and those placed in work related activity and support groups. [90325]

**Chris Grayling:** We plan to publish the research on 27 January. It will be available on the DWP website.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 18 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, if he will publish the results of the monitoring of free text by Atos Healthcare. [90326]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP has no current plans to publish the results of the monitoring of free text by Atos.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 18 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, when he last received a report from Atos Healthcare of the results into the use of free text. [90327]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP has not received any reports from Atos of the results into the use of free text as this is not information that Atos is currently asked or required to provide.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 18 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, on how many occasions he received a report from Atos Healthcare of the results into the use of free text in 2011. [90328]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP has not received any reports from Atos of the results into the use of free text as this is not information that Atos is currently asked or required to provide.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 19 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, what assessment he has made of the recruitment and retention of Atos-approved healthcare professionals. [90329]

**Chris Grayling:** The recruitment and retention of Atos Healthcare, Healthcare Professionals continues to be monitored on a monthly basis. The monthly report tracks progress against recruitment and retention targets. Presently, Atos Healthcare is providing a good level of priority to recruitment and retention, although with regards to recruitment there are challenging geographical areas where actions are in place to resolve these during 2012.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 20 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment, what *(a)* his timetable is for and *(b)* progress he has made on evaluating the customer journey. [90332]

**Chris Grayling:** The changes to the employment and support allowance (ESA) customer journey, introduced nationally from 31 October 2011, provides additional support to individuals via a new letter explaining the WCA process; and a telephone call by the Decision Maker to explain the decision made on their claim. A phased national implementation approach enabled the evaluation of these changes prior to national rollout to ensure they would deliver improvements to the customer experience.

National rollout will enable more robust evaluation to be completed, which will enable DWP to identify further improvements and findings will feed into Professor Harrington's year three review.

## TRANSPORT

### Coventry Gateway Project

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has had recent discussions with Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise

Partnership (LEP) on the *(a)* funding allocated to the Tollbar Island in the Autumn Statement and *(b)* work of the LEP on the Coventry Gateway project; and if she will make a statement. [89803]

**Norman Baker:** The Autumn Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report,* columns 799-810, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), confirmed the A45/A46 Tollbar End improvement scheme as one of six major projects to be brought forward for construction earlier than previously planned, subject to the completion of statutory processes where applicable.

Ministers have had no discussions with Coventry and Warwickshire LEP on this subject. However, senior officials from the Department for Transport, Highways Agency, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Department for Communities and Local Government met representatives of the promoters of the Coventry Gateway project and Coventry and Warwickshire LEP in December. The potential interaction of the A45 Tollbar End improvement and the Coventry Gateway project was discussed. It was agreed that the Highways Agency would have further detailed discussions with the promoters with the aim of ensuring that the two projects are compatible.

### Motor Vehicles: Licensing

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to require operators of Showmen's vehicles and Showmen's goods vehicles to obtain an operator's licence; and if she will make a statement. [90190]

**Mike Penning:** Showmen's goods vehicles and any trailers drawn by them are exempt from goods vehicle operator licensing. The Government have no plans to change this.

### Motor Vehicles: Lighting

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to raise awareness of road safety standards on correct use of headlights by vehicles in rain, snow and low-light. [90552]

**Mike Penning:** There are no current plans to raise awareness of road safety standards regarding the correct use of headlights by vehicles in rain, snow and low-light. The Highways Agency's winter campaign includes a call to "Make sure your lights are clean and check the bulbs":

http://www.highways.gov.uk/knowledge/33230.aspx

The Highway Code also provides information for drivers when driving in adverse conditions.

### Motor Vehicles: Testing

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on employment in Scotland of the proposed changes to MOT tests; [88145]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of MOT tests which will be carried out in Scotland each year after the implementation of her proposed changes to MOT tests; [88146]

(3) how many MOT testing stations there are in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area in Scotland; [88175]

(4) how many MOT tests were conducted in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area in Scotland in each of the last five years; [88176]

(5) how many MOT testers are registered in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area in Scotland; [88177]

(6) what assessment she has made of the economic impact in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency of the proposed changes to MOT tests; [88301]

(7) what estimate she has made of the likely change in the number of *(a)* MOT testers and *(b)* MOT test centres in Scotland following the proposed changes to MOT tests. [88302]

**Mike Penning:** I expect to make an announcement soon about the timing and scope of a review of the MOT.

No assessment has been made of the effect on employment in Scotland or on the economic impact in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency with regard to any potential changes to MOT tests.

No estimate has been made of the number of MOT tests which will be carried out in Scotland each year or the likely change in the number of *(a)* MOT testers and *(b)* MOT test centres in Scotland with regard to any potential changes to MOT tests.

With regard to the number of MOT testing stations, MOT tests conducted and MOT testers registered in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area in Scotland; the information requested is not processed in constituency or regional format and would invoke disproportionate cost.

### Motorways: Speed limits

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department plans to put in place to offset the increase in emissions attributable to any increase in the motorway speed limit. [90812]

**Mike Penning:** We are assessing all the principal effects of raising the national speed limit on motorways and on some all-purpose trunk roads which are close to motorway standard. Our assessments include estimates of fuel use and carbon emissions. We will include these estimates as part of the documentation for the planned consultation.

We are also delivering progressive cuts in transport carbon emissions through a range of measures set out in our Carbon Plan published on 1st December 2011. For example, new cars sold in 2020 are projected to emit around a third less carbon than the current average. A link to the Government's Carbon Plan can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/carbon_plan/carbon_plan.aspx

The Strategic Framework for Road safety sets out a series of measures we are doing to improve road safety.

### Queen Elizabeth II Bridge

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of the closure of the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge on traffic levels in Thurrock on 4 January 2012; and if she will make a statement. [90350]

**Mike Penning:** On 4 January the QEII Bridge was closed during the evening from 21.43 and reopened at 17.09 on 5 January. The effects of the closure on traffic levels in Thurrock on 4 January would therefore have been minimal.

Within Thurrock the Highways Agency are responsible for the M25, A282, A13 and A1089 trunk roads on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport as highway authority. During each of the bridge closures traffic levels were monitored on the M25/A282.

There are no cameras or other equipment along the A13 or A1089 to monitor traffic levels, however the Highways Agency was aware of morning peak hour queuing on the A13 westbound in the Thurrock area which resulted from the reduction in capacity at the Dartford-Thurrock crossing.

Monitoring of traffic levels on other roads within Thurrock is undertaken by the local highway authority, Thurrock council.

### Roads: Accidents

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involved incorrect use of headlights as a contributory factor in Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [90551]

**Mike Penning:** Information specifically on the "incorrect use of headlights" as a contributory factor in road accidents is not collected by the Department. However, the following table shows the number of reported personal injury road accidents in the West Midlands which had "dazzling headlights" or "not displaying lights at night or in poor visibility" recorded as a contributory factor, over the period 2008-10. To protect the privacy of those involved in accidents, information on contributory factors is not released below former Government Office Region level.

Contributory factors are reported only for injury road accidents where a police officer attended the scene and reported at least one contributory factor. These factors are largely subjective, reflecting the attending officer's opinion at the time of reporting. It is recognised that subsequent inquiries could lead to the reporting officer changing their opinion.

*Reported personal injury road accidents[1] involving "dazzling headlights" or "not displaying lights at night or in poor visibility" as a contributory factor in the West Midlands, 2008-10*

| | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Not displaying lights at night or in poor visibility | 52 | 45 | 36 |
| Dazzling headlights | 35 | 35 | 26 |

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

### Roads: Greater London

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the relationship between local authorities in London and Transport for London on plans to devolve decision making on the classification of local roads. [89025]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* Under the new system for road classification, responsibility for classification rests with the local highway authority. In London this is shared between the borough and City authorities, and Transport for London.

Local highway authorities should secure agreement to classification changes from other affected local highway authorities. Vesting co-ordinating responsibility in Transport for London would be a matter for the authorities involved, and would be perfectly acceptable. An appeals process will be available to local authorities and others.

### Thameslink: Rolling Stock

**Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether her Department takes account of foreign exchange rate risk between the bid and financial close of each batch for each bidder for the Thameslink Rolling Stock Programme; [89183]

(2) if she will estimate the extent of any risk to her Department from fluctuations in the exchange rate in respect of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Programme; and whether her Department has estimated the range of potential risks that relate to different exchange rate levels. [89884]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department performs sensitivity analysis of exchange rate movements, and their repercussions on contract awards, on an ongoing basis.

### Transport: Subsidies

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many representations she has received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* others concerning the withdrawal of discretionary transport subsidies; [89072]

(2) what estimate she has made of the total expenditure on discretionary transport subsidies in each of the last three years; [89074]

(3) which local authorities have *(a)* withdrawn and *(b)* reduced the level of discretionary transport subsidies in England over the last five years. [89075]

**Tim Loughton:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Education.

The Department does not require or collect any information from local authorities or other sources on levels of total expenditure on discretionary transport support. We regularly receive letters and other information from Members of Parliament, which cover home to school transport as well as other policy areas. We do not hold records on how many such requests are specifically about the withdrawal of discretionary transport subsidies.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to reply to question 88707, tabled on 20 December 2011, on roads. [90554]

**Mike Penning:** I answered this question on 11 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 310W.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biomass

**Susan Elan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's policy to incentivise co-firing, conversion and dedicated biomass on wood fuel resources. [89876]

**Gregory Barker:** As part of our consultation on the renewables obligation banding review, DECC published a partial impact assessment which included consideration of the impact of its proposals on sustainably-sourced wood fuel resources. Resource supply scenarios indicate that by 2020 global woody bioenergy resource that could be available for use by the UK bioenergy industry could be in the region of 170-515 TWh. Modelling for the renewables obligation banding review suggests approximately 110 TWh of woody fuels will be required for conversion, co-firing and dedicated biomass in 2020.

The consultation closed on 12 January. DECC intends to publish the Government response and full impact assessment in the spring, informed by the submissions received and the conclusions of the cross-Government bioenergy strategy, due in March. The strategy will set out a strategic framework for the use of bioenergy to 2020 and is examining three main issues:

The availability of sustainably sourced feedstocks to 2020 and beyond;

The potential impacts (economic and carbon) of using biomass in the energy sector including for alternative uses for bio-resources; and

The most appropriate use of biomass feedstocks in the energy sector (electricity, heat and transport) to 2020 and beyond taking into account wider Government objectives such as cost-effectiveness, carbon abatement potential, renewables targets and security of supply.

### Energy

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost per kWh is for *(a)* solar, *(b)* offshore wind, *(c)* onshore wind and *(d)* nuclear power generation; and what estimate his Department has made of such costs in 2020. [88878]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC commissioned Arup consultants to assess the generation costs of renewable electricity generation technologies and Parsons Brinckerhoff consultants to assess the generation costs of non-renewable technologies.

The Arup and PB reports[1] quote the following projected levelised costs of electricity per MWh for 2011 and 2017, using a 10% discount rate, for solar, offshore wind, onshore wind and nuclear:

*Levelised costs of electricity, 10% discount rate (based on Arup and PB reports)*

| | | *£/MWh* |
|---|---|---|
| *Technology* | *Levelised cost with 2011 project start* | *Levelised cost with 2017 project start* |
| Solar PV | 314.3 | 240.8 |
| Offshore wind Round 2 | 121.6 | 105.7 |
| Offshore wind Round 3 | 147.5 | 122.4 |
| Onshore wind >5MW | 90.2 | 87.5 |
| Nuclear | 74.1 (FOAK) | 64.9 (NOAK) |

*Note*:
FOAK refers to first-of-a-kind and NOAK to nth-of-a-kind plants

Since then, Cambridge Economic Policy Associates (CEPA) and Parsons Brinckerhoff have produced a report[2] for DECC updating assumptions for solar PV costs to inform the recent consultation on feed in tariffs for solar PV. This analysis was used in the impact assessment supporting the consultation.

[1] Arup (2011), Review of the generation costs and deployment potential of renewable electricity generation technologies in the UK and Parsons Brinckerhoff (2011) Electricity Generation Cost Model—2011 Update. Both are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/gen_costs/gen_costs.aspx

[2] CEPA and Parsons Brinckerhoff (2011), Updates to the Feed-in tariffs model, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3365-updates-to-fits-model-doc.pdf

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of public subsidy received by the *(a)* solar, *(b)* onshore wind, *(c)* offshore wind, *(d)* biomass and *(e)* carbon capture and storage industry; and what proportion of such subsidies are funded out of (i) consumer energy bills and (ii) general taxation. [89189]

**Gregory Barker:** The deployment of large-scale renewable electricity generation is supported by the renewables obligation (RO) introduced in 2002. The RO places an obligation on electricity suppliers and it is expected they will pass the cost of this obligation on to their various energy customers through their electricity bills. The total level of support provided by the RO in 2010-11 was £1,285 million. Estimates have not been made for the amount of RO support received by different types of technologies in 2010-11.

Small-scale (less than 5 MW) low-carbon electricity generation is supported by the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme introduced on 1 April 2010. The FITs scheme is funded by the electricity suppliers and it is expected that the costs are ultimately passed on to electricity consumers. The total level of support provided by the FITs scheme in 2010-11 was £14.4 million. Estimates are not available on the amount of FITs support received by different types of technologies.

Approximately £37.7 million has been paid to the carbon capture and storage (CCS) industry to support front-end engineering and design studies as part of the CCS demonstration programme since it was established to the end of October 2011. This has been funded from general taxation. In addition £3.1 million, funded from general taxation, was spent by DECC to support a range of research and development grants for carbon abatement technologies, including CCS, in 2010-11.

DECC and a number of other bodies also receive funding from general taxation to support the research, development and demonstration of other low carbon technologies. An annual expenditure return on total low carbon technology expenditure is made to the International Energy Agency (IEA). The return does not differentiate between offshore and onshore wind and expenditure on biomass is covered under the bioenergy group of technologies. Early estimated expenditure figures provided to the IEA for 2010-11 are as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Solar | 14.64 |
| Onshore and offshore wind | 63.23 |
| Bioenergy | 31.24 |

### Energy Performance Certificates

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he gave to including the mandatory roll-out of display energy certificates to non-residential buildings in the Carbon Plan. [89617]

**Gregory Barker:** The Government considered a wide range of policy options in formulating the Carbon Plan.

The Carbon Plan notes that display energy certificates (DECs) are required for (non-residential) buildings occupied by a public authority that are larger than 1,000 m$^2$ and are frequently visited by the public. In addition, the Government are also taking further action and are working with the commercial sector to encourage voluntary take-up in commercial buildings.

The role of DECs will soon be complemented with the introduction of the Green Deal.

### Energy: Prices

**Mr Watts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with energy companies on the cost of energy for vulnerable customers; which companies were involved in any such discussions; and when and where any such discussions took place. [90360]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC Ministers and officials meet energy companies on a regular basis to discuss a range of market issues.

DECC is committed to helping people, especially low-income vulnerable households, heat their homes more affordably. This winter we are working with energy suppliers to deliver the Warm Home Discount scheme; we are also providing heating and insulation measures through Warm Front; and developing our proposals for the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation.

### EU Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which EU *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89681]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC has lead responsibility for the following adopted directives which require further measures to complete their transposition into UK law:

Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources

Directive 2009/29/EC to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme of the Community

Directive 2009/72/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity

Directive 2009/73/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in gas

Directive 2009/31/EC on the geological storage of carbon dioxide

Directive 2009/119/EC imposing an obligation to maintain minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products

Directive 2011/70/EURATOM establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste

This list does not include directives for which DECC is not the lead Department or for which no further measures are considered necessary to complete their transposition into UK law.

EU regulations which may require implementing measures and for which DECC is the lead Department have not been included. Although modifications to UK legislation may be necessary as part of their implementation process, the provisions of EU regulations do not generally require transposition.

DECC does not hold a central register of other EU legislation which may require further measures to complete their transposition into UK law, but we have identified the following:

Commission Decision 2011/13/EU on certain types of information about biofuels and bioliquids to be submitted by economic operators to member states. This Commission Decision was made under directive 2009/28/EC.

Where relevant, a published impact assessment will provide an estimate of costs at the time of the transposition of directives. Impact assessments for directive 2009/28/EC, directive 2009/72/EC, directive 2009/73/EC and directive 2009/31/EC can be found at:

http://www.ialibrary.bis.gov.uk/uploaded/1_20090715120705_e_@@_UKRenewableEnergyStratey2009OverallImpactAssessmenturn09D683150609.pdf

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/govt_response/govt_response.aspx

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_co2_stor/cons_co2_stor.aspx

Directive 2009/29/EC is due for transposition by 31 December 2012 and an impact assessment will be published in the spring.

Directive 2009/119/EC replaces an existing directive (2006/67/EC) imposing an obligation to hold minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products, and needs to be transposed by 31 December 2012. An impact assessment is in preparation for planned publication in the spring.

The directive 2011/70/EURATOM establishing a community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste needs to be transposed by July 2013. DECC will be producing the transposition table and accompanying impact assessment during the summer of 2012.

### Feed-in Tariffs

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department plans to spend on feed-in tariffs in *(a)* 2012 and *(b)* 2013. [89595]

**Gregory Barker:** Estimates of future costs of solar PV, which make up the bulk of the total cost of the FITs scheme, are extremely uncertain. DECC is currently reviewing its estimates in the light of responses to the current consultation on PV tariffs as well as other recent changes in the market, and will provide updated assessments for the final impact assessments published alongside the post-consultation policy response.

### Solar Power

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 216W, on solar power, whether his Department made any assumptions on the potential change in energy use in households that have installed solar PV under the feed-in tariff prior to the announcement of changes to the scheme. [89070]

**Gregory Barker:** We have no robust quantitative evidence from the FITs scheme to date about behavioural change in households that install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. However, DECC is currently considering what further evidence may be needed in relation to the effects of installing microgeneration technologies on household energy use.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Equality

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what equality impact assessments his Department has carried out since May 2010; and for what purpose in each case. [88586]

**Mr Duncan:** Equality impact assessments since May 2010:

Closure of Development Awareness Fund Projects, Communications Division

Festivals Outreach Activity, Communications Division

Overseas Allowance and Travel Review, HR

Voluntary Redundancy scheme for SCS, HR

Chapter Phase 1 and 2, Information Systems

DFID Pakistan: Restructure to deliver against ministerial priorities, portfolio review and BAR offer

Global Partnerships Department Change Process, Global Partnerships Department

IAD Restructure Process, Internal Audit

Termination of UCL Governance and Transparency Grant, Civil Society Department

HR Passport, HR

Bilateral Aid Review

Voluntary Redundancy scheme and Voluntary Exit scheme

In compliance with the guidance given on the Equality Act 2010, DFID streamlined its process away from Equality Impact Assessments to make it less bureaucratic during 2011. It introduced equality screening as a method that is less burdensome and more outcomes focused. This will identify and address specific equalities requirements in people management and service delivery. The results can then be summarised in annual equality and diversity information reports.

### Food Aid

**Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will make it his policy to endorse the Save the Children Charter to End Extreme Hunger; [90009]

(2) if he will make it his policy to endorse the Charter to End Extreme Hunger. [90010]

**Mr Duncan:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answers I gave to the hon. Member for Gateshead (Ian Mearns), on 17 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 656W.

## JUSTICE

### Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has commissioned to measure the subjective well-being of children. [90151]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice has not commissioned any research which directly measures the subjective well-being of children. However, the Department has commissioned and published a number of studies which indirectly consider children's well-being. These are listed as follows:

(1) Giovannini, E. (2011). Outcomes of Family Justice Children's Proceedings—a Review of the Evidence. Ministry of Justice, London:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-and-analysis/moj/outcomes-family-justice.htm

(2) Cassidy, D., and Davey, S. (2011). Family Justice and Children's Proceedings—Review of Public and Private Law Case Files in England and Wales. Ministry of Justice, London:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-and-analysis/moj/family-justice-children.htm

(3) Masson, J., Pearce, J. and Bader, K. (2008) Care profiling study. Bristol: University of Bristol. Ministry of Justice Research Series, No, 4/08:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/care-profiling-study.pdf

(4) Trinder, L. and Kellett, J. (2007) The longer-term outcomes of in-court conciliation. Ministry of Justice Research Series, No. 15/07, London.

(5) Trinder, L., Connolly, J., Kellet, J., Notley, C. and Swift, L. (2006), Making contact happen or making contact work? The process and outcomes of in-court conciliation, DCA Research Series, No. 3/2006, London.

(6) Trinder. L., Connolly, J., Kellett. J. and Notley. C (2005) A Profile of Applicants and Respondents in Contact Cases in Essex. DCA Research Series 1/05, London.

(7) Smart, C, May, V., Wade, A. and Furniss, C. (2005) Residence and contact disputes in court: Volume 2. DCA Research Series, No. 4/2005.

(8) Smart, C, May, V., Wade, A. and Furniss, C. (2003) Residence and contact disputes in court: Volume 1. DCA Research Series, No. 6/2003.

Where web links are not provided, reports are available on request from MOJ.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for criminal injuries compensation were received in each year since 1997. [90477]

**Mr Djanogly:** Figures covering the specified period are shown in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *Number of applications* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 77,036 |
| 1998-99 | 78,651 |
| 1999-2000 | 78,742 |
| 2000-01 | 76,630 |
| 2001-02 | 78,272 |
| 2002-03 | 73,928 |
| 2003-04 | 70,595 |
| 2004-05 | 66,290 |
| 2005-06 | 63,078 |
| 2006-07 | 60,861 |
| 2007-08 | 53,290 |
| 2008-09 | 57,753 |
| 2009-10 | 65,445 |
| 2010-11 | 61,292 |

### Apprentices

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many apprentices were employed by his Department between *(a)* April 2010 and March 2011 and *(b)* April and December 2011; and how many apprenticeships his Department will sponsor between (i) January and March 2012 and (ii) April and March 2013. [89210]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** April 2010 to March 2011 and April 2011 to December 2011 were periods of major restructuring and downsizing in the Ministry of Justice. We were unable to run any external apprentice recruitment campaigns as we did not have any vacancies which were suitable for apprenticeships during this period.

The Ministry of Justice has a well established programme of apprenticeships for its staff. The Ministry will continue to use apprenticeships to raise the skills and capability of existing staff by offering opportunities to develop transferable skills and support future recruitment.

The numbers of internal apprentices employed by the Ministry is set out in the following table.

| | *Number of starters per year* | *Running total* |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 321 | 321 |
| 2009-10 | 412 | 733 |
| 2010-11 | 503 | 1,236 |
| 2011-12[1] | 583 | 1,819 |

[1] To date.

For the period January to March 2012, the Ministry has plans to sponsor 108 apprenticeships.

Officials are working with Civil Service HR and Civil Service Learning to agree the Ministry's commitment for the period from April 2012 to March 2013.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on carbon offsetting since May 2010. [89646]

**Mr Djanogly:** In October 2010 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) purchased carbon credits for MOJ's air travel totalling £29,809.09. This figure covers air travel in the period of April 2009 to March 2010 plus 80% of forward purchases for April 2010—March 2011. The figure covers the main department MOJ (including the National Offender Management Service, HM Courts and Tribunals Service) and The National Archives and HM Land Registry (before the latter's move to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in July 2011).

### NDPBs

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 278W, on non-government organisations, for what reason the *(a)* Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, *(b)* Administrative Justice and Tribunal Council, *(c)* Office of the Information Commissioner, *(d)* Judicial Appointments Commission and *(e)* Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses received a reduction in funding from his Department in 2011-12 as compared to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [89947]

**Mr Djanogly:** The 2010 spending review required savings from the Ministry of Justice of well over £2 billion annually by the end of 2014-15. Some of these savings will be made through reform and efficiencies within the core Department. However, we are also working with our arm's length bodies to ensure that they produce comprehensive savings plans which demonstrate how they will contribute to the Ministry's savings while still delivering the required level of service.

We are also looking at a number of ways that the Ministry can run shared services for our arm's length bodies in line with the Ministry's operating model. This will produce further efficiencies to ensure we are getting the best value for money we can from our support functions.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority received an additional one off amount of £72 million in 2010-11. This funding allowed them to settle a backlog of cases.

### Departmental Official Visits

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of official visits undertaken by *(a)* him and *(b)* each Minister in his Department in 2011. [89927]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I have provided costs of official visits for Ministers in the Ministry of Justice in the following table. These totals relate to costs incurred by ministerial offices for all external visits to non-Ministry of Justice sites and international visits for the period 1 January to 31 December 2011.

£

| *Minister* | *Total costs of domestic visits to non-MOJ sites* | *Total costs of international visits* | *Combined total cost* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kenneth Clarke | 83.07 | 23,115.29 | 23,198.36 |
| Lord McNally | 1,311.02 | 12,447.66 | 13,758.68 |
| Nick Herbert | 308 | 0 | 308 |
| Crispin Blunt | 1,275.35 | 8,066.11 | 9,341.46 |
| Jonathan Djanogly | 291.11 | 0 | 291.11 |
| Total | 3,268.55 | 43,629.06 | 46,897.61 |

These totals include costs associated with these visits such as travel and accommodation and also include costs incurred by accompanying staff where this applies.

## Fishing Catches: Fines

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average fine was for over-fishing in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [89844]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for over-fishing in each (i) police area and (ii) harbour in each of the last 10 years; under what legislation each was convicted; and if he will make a statement. [89880]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is not possible to identify from this centrally held information, of those proceedings under the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967, offences specifically related to over-fishing.

## Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

**Mr Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* nationality and *(b)* gender was of each suspected victim of trafficking referred to the Trafficking Victim Support Scheme in December 2011; in which constituency each such suspected victim was found; which agency referred each case; and if he will make a statement. [90131]

**Mr Blunt:** In December 2011 there were 21 referrals to the Government-funded support service for adult victims of human trafficking in England and Wales administered by The Salvation Army. Details are provided in the following table. In the interests of victim safety the region in which the victim was encountered is provided rather than the parliamentary constituency.

| *Nationality* | *Gender* | *Region* | *Referring organisation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Latvian | Female | South West | Police |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | Police |
| Polish | Male | South West | NGO |
| Polish | Female | South West | NGO |
| Polish | Male | Yorkshire | NGO |
| Albanian | Female | West Midlands | UKBA |
| N/K | Female | South East | Self-referral |
| Somali | Female | South East | Social Services |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | NHS |
| Albanian | Female | Yorkshire | UKBA |
| Equatorial Guinean/ Spanish | Female | East | NGO |
| Nigerian | Female | London | Legal Representative |
| Slovakian | Female | North West | Self-referral |
| Somali | Female | West Midlands | Police |
| British | Female | North West | Police |
| Bangladeshi | Female | South East | NGO |
| Bulgarian | Female | South East | Police |
| Nigerian | Female | West Midlands | UKHTC |
| Bangladeshi | Female | South East | UKBA |
| Bulgarian | Female | South East | NGO |
| Romanian | Female | West Midlands | Police |

## Import Duties: Tax Evasion

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for import duty evasion in each of the last five years. [89849]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for fraudulent evasion of import duty in England and Wales from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring.

The figures shown in the table reflect all types of import duty evasion and not just those in relation to customs regimes.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for fraudulent evasion of import duty, England and Wales, 2006-10*[1,2,3,4]

*Defendants*

| | *2006* | | *2007* | | *2008*[5] | | *2009* | | *2010* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offences* | *Proceeded* | *Convicted* | *Proceeded* | *Convicted* | *Proceeded* | *Convicted* | *Proceeded* | *Convicted* | *Proceeded* | *Convicted* |
| Fraudulent evasion of import duty other than drugs and firearms[6] | 423 | 348 | 236 | 276 | 309 | 262 | 272 | 235 | 273 | 185 |

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Convictions for an offence may exceed prosecutions in the same year, as defendants may have a committal hearing at magistrates courts in one reporting period and be convicted at the Crown court in the next. The principal offence selected may also change during a set of proceedings.

[4] The figures shown in the table reflect all types of import duty evasion and not just those in relation to Customs regimes.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[6] Offences under sections 50 (2) and (3), 68 (2), and 170 (1) and (2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 except where the goods concerned are drugs or firearms.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

## Offenders: Bank Services

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of prisoners who do not have a bank account upon their release. [90188]

**Mr Blunt:** Details of the numbers of prisoners with bank accounts is not routinely collected, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by collecting information held on individual prisoner records, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response.

Past evaluations conducted by the Legal Service Research Centre and Liverpool John Moores university found that the range of prisoners surveyed without access to a bank account or other financial products was between 40% and 69%.

## Prisoners' Home Leave

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests on behalf of restricted patients to be *(a)* discharged and *(b)* permitted periods of unescorted leave have been made in each of the last five years; how many such requests were (i) granted and (ii) refused; and how many such restricted patients have a record of committing (A) sexual offences and (B) violent offences. [89738]

**Mr Blunt:** Higher courts may add a restriction order when making a hospital order if they are satisfied that this is necessary for the protection of the public from serious harm. A high proportion of restricted patients will have a conviction for sexual or violent offence.

Under the Mental Health Act 1983 (the 1983 Act), a restricted patient may be discharged either by the First-tier Mental Health Tribunal or by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke). Restricted patients have the right to a review of their detention by the Tribunal every 12 months. The Tribunal will consider evidence presented by the responsible clinician for the restricted patient, alongside other clinical evidence. The Tribunal must discharge the patient if it is not satisfied that it is necessary for the protection of the patient or other that the patient be detained in hospital for treatment for a mental disorder.

The Secretary of State will discharge restricted patients into the community only if he is satisfied, based on the clinical evidence presented, that the patient no longer requires treatment in hospital and that arrangements for his safe management in the community have been made.

It is not possible to provide the information requested relating to requests for *(a)* discharge or *(b)* unescorted leave prior to 4 March 2009, the date on which an electronic caseworking system was introduced. To do so would require manual checks of 4,127 files for 196 days at disproportionate cost.

Under the 1983 Act, no restricted patient may have leave in the community without the permission of the Secretary of State. Permission for such leave is usually given at the discretion of the responsible clinician who is responsible for determining the frequency, duration and destination of such leave. Permission for unescorted community leave is granted only if, on the basis of the clinical evidence available, the Secretary of State is satisfied that such leave can be taken without putting others at risk.

The number of requests to discharge restricted patients into the community received and granted from 4 March 2009 to end December 2011 are set out in the following table.

| | *Discharge* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Request for discharge* | *Discharge agreed* | *Discharge refused* |
| 4 March 2009 to 31December 2009 | 74 | 64 | 10 |
| 2010 | 110 | 92 | 18 |
| 2011 | 104 | 87 | 17 |

The number of requests to grant permission to responsible clinicians for unescorted community leave to restricted patients from 4 March 2009 to end December 2011 are set out in the following table.

| | *Unescorted leave* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Request for unescorted community leave* | *Permission granted* | *Permission refused* |
| 4 March 2009 to 31 December 2009 | 1,439 | 1,309 | 130 |
| 2010 | 1,756 | 1,574 | 182 |
| 2011 | 1,446 | 1,209 | 237 |

It is not possible to provide the information requested on the number of restricted patients who have been discharged or granted unescorted leave in each of the last five years who have a record of committing sexual or violent offences, without a manual check of over 6,000 files for 150 days at disproportionate cost.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many restricted patients were granted unescorted leave in each of the last five years; how many such patients committed offences while on unescorted leave;

and what the name and location is of each secure unit from which such patients were on leave. [89657]

**Mr Blunt:** Under the Mental Health Act 1983, no restricted patient may have leave in the community without the permission of the Secretary of State. Permission for such leave is usually given at the discretion of the responsible clinician who is responsible for determining the frequency, duration and destination of such leave. Permission for unescorted community leave is granted only if, on the basis of the clinical evidence available, the Secretary of State is satisfied that such leave can be taken without putting others at risk.

It is not possible to provide the information requested relating to requests for unescorted leave prior to 4 March 2009, the date on which an electronic caseworking system was introduced. To do so would require manual checks of over 2,500 files for 60 days at disproportionate cost.

It is also not possible to provide the information required on any offences committed while on unescorted leave or on the units from which these patients were permitted leave. To do so would require manual checks of over 6,500 files for 155 days at disproportionate cost.

The number of decisions to give responsible clinicians permission to grant unescorted community leave to restricted patients from 4 March 2009 to end December 2011 is set out in the following table.

| | *Permission granted* |
|---|---:|
| 4 March 2009-31 December 2009 | 1,309 |
| 2010 | 1,574 |
| 2011 | 1,209 |

### Secure Accommodation

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many restricted patients there were in secure premises in each of the last five years. [89658]

**Mr Blunt:** Restricted patients may be detained in any hospital. Almost all restricted patients will be detained in secure psychiatric hospitals. However, patients who no longer present a risk to others may be detained on rehabilitation or open wards.

The number of restricted patients detained in hospital in each of the past five years was as follows:

| | *Total number of restricted patients detained in hospital at end of year* |
|---|---:|
| 2007 | 3,911 |
| 2008 | 4,000 |
| 2009 | 4,340 |
| 2010 | 4,446 |
| 2011 | 4,390 |

### Sentencing

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of custodial sentence was in each year between 1995 and 2011. [90480]

**Mr Blunt:** The average length of custodial sentence received at all courts in England and Wales in each year between 1995 and 2010 (latest currently available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring.

*Average custodial sentence length received for all offences at all courts In England and Wales in each year between 1995 and 2010*

| | *Year* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008*[1] | *2009* | *2010* |
| Average custodial sentence length[2] (months) | 12.0 | 12.8 | 12.7 | 11.8 | 11.5 | 11.4 | 11.8 | 12.6 | 12.6 | 12.9 | 12.6 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 13.3 | 13.7 | 13.7 |

[1] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[2] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

*Notes:*

1. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice

## HEALTH

### Alzheimer's Disease: Drugs

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of prescription is of anti-Alzheimer's drugs per weighted population in each individual primary care trust in England. [89871]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The number of prescription items dispensed, by primary care trust (PCT), for the latest available 12-month period, November 2010 and October 2011, is given in the following table, together with the rate per thousand of PCT weighted population formula for 2011-12.

*Number of prescription items for medicines to treat Alzheimer's disease that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom, by PCT, November 2010 to October 2011*[1,2,3]

| *Primary care trust* | *Prescription items* | *Rate per thousand weighted population*[4] |
|---|---:|---:|
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan | 10,202 | 27.3 |

*Number of prescription items for medicines to treat Alzheimer's disease that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom, by PCT, November 2010 to October 2011*[1,2,3]

*Number of prescription items for medicines to treat Alzheimer's disease that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom, by PCT, November 2010 to October 2011*[1,2,3]

| *Primary care trust* | *Prescription items* | *Rate per thousand weighted population*[4] |
|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 5,998 | 36.7 |
| Barnet | 12,111 | 41.8 |
| Barnsley | 12,445 | 40.8 |
| Bassetlaw | 4,064 | 32.3 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 9,176 | 57.3 |
| Bedfordshire | 8,642 | 22.5 |
| Berkshire East | 948 | 2.8 |
| Berkshire West | 591 | 1.6 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 6,289 | 31.2 |
| Birmingham East and North | 943 | 2.1 |
| Blackburn with Darwen CTP | 4,125 | 23.2 |
| Blackpool | 10,445 | 57.2 |
| Bolton | 8,048 | 26.6 |
| Bournemouth and Poole Teaching | 7,662 | 22.9 |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching | 17,134 | 31.2 |
| Brent Teaching | 4,506 | 18.9 |
| Brighton and Hove City | 9,122 | 39.4 |
| Bristol | 16,393 | 40.1 |
| Bromley | 8,009 | 29.2 |
| Buckinghamshire | 8,709 | 20.3 |
| Bury | 5,053 | 25.5 |
| Calderdale | 7,083 | 32.2 |
| Cambridgeshire | 18,763 | 35.4 |
| Camden | 4,578 | 24.8 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire | 9,414 | 20.0 |
| Central Lancashire | 12,635 | 25.7 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 2,314 | 10.9 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 12,831 | 21.3 |
| County Durham | 23,571 | 35.9 |
| Coventry Teaching | 6,989 | 21.0 |
| Croydon | 756 | 2.5 |
| Cumbria Teaching | 19,528 | 33.6 |
| Darlington | 8,268 | 71.7 |
| Derby City | 5,744 | 19.4 |
| Derbyshire County | 18,261 | 23.1 |
| Devon | 18,342 | 23.4 |
| Doncaster | 9,229 | 25.9 |
| Dorset | 7,469 | 17.8 |
| Dudley | 1,239 | 3.7 |
| Ealing | 1,321 | 4.4 |
| East Lancashire Teaching | 12,545 | 29.2 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 13,536 | 39.3 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald | 1,203 | 3.4 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent | 4,037 | 5.3 |
| Enfield | 7,983 | 32.2 |
| Gateshead | 12,040 | 50.8 |
| Gloucestershire | 31,625 | 55.4 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney | 9,147 | 35.1 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 7,680 | 35.8 |
| Halton and St Helens | 8,022 | 20.7 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,829 | 14.0 |
| Hampshire | 59,662 | 50.4 |
| Haringey Teaching | 5,896 | 28.4 |
| Harrow | 4,287 | 22.4 |
| Hartlepool | 2,778 | 24.2 |
| Hastings and Rother | 314 | 1.5 |
| Havering | 14,121 | 61.0 |
| Heart of Birmingham | 583 | 2.1 |
| Herefordshire | 3,362 | 17.6 |
| Hertfordshire | 4,873 | 5.1 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale | 6,634 | 28.0 |
| Hillingdon | 5,555 | 25.2 |
| Hounslow | 3,077 | 15.1 |
| Hull Teaching | 8,217 | 26.0 |
| Isle of Wight NHS | 5,117 | 31.3 |
| Islington | 3,654 | 21.9 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 3,862 | 25.9 |
| Kingston | 5,829 | 41.9 |
| Kirklees | 14,594 | 34.1 |
| Knowsley | 1,802 | 9.0 |
| Lambeth | 7,623 | 31.7 |
| Leeds | 42,342 | 54.1 |
| Leicester City | 1,150 | 3.5 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland | 1,283 | 2.1 |
| Lewisham | 7,548 | 33.0 |
| Lincolnshire | 36,517 | 45.4 |
| Liverpool | 8,695 | 15.4 |
| Luton | 2,663 | 15.3 |
| Manchester | 15,321 | 28.1 |
| Medway | 2,335 | 9.2 |
| Mid Essex | 14,009 | 42.5 |
| Middlesbrough | 4,202 | 24.0 |
| Milton Keynes | 3,235 | 15.1 |
| Newcastle | 14,170 | 49.0 |
| Newham | 9,700 | 40.8 |
| Norfolk | 25,679 | 32.8 |
| North East Essex | 8,824 | 25.1 |
| North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus | 4,758 | 26.4 |
| North Lancashire Teaching | 20,071 | 51.9 |
| North Lincolnshire | 5,043 | 27.3 |
| North Somerset | 8,410 | 38.4 |
| North Staffordshire | 6,328 | 27.1 |
| North Tyneside | 11,661 | 48.2 |

*Number of prescription items for medicines to treat Alzheimer's disease that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom, by PCT, November 2010 to October 2011*[1,2,3]

| *Primary care trust* | *Prescription items* | *Rate per thousand weighted population*[4] |
|---|---|---|
| North Yorkshire and York | 29,672 | 37.6 |
| Northamptonshire Teaching | 17,209 | 26.6 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 13,836 | 36.6 |
| Nottingham City | 6,666 | 21.7 |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching | 21,472 | 30.6 |
| Oldham | 9,945 | 39.3 |
| Oxfordshire | 20,789 | 39.1 |
| Peterborough | 5,551 | 36.0 |
| Plymouth Teaching | 5,869 | 21.2 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching | 9,525 | 50.0 |
| Redbridge | 11,664 | 51.2 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 2,520 | 15.3 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | 6,739 | 50.6 |
| Rotherham | 10,760 | 35.7 |
| Salford | 11,108 | 39.3 |
| Sandwell | 4,530 | 12.9 |
| Sefton | 286 | 0.9 |
| Sheffield | 39,861 | 67.7 |
| Shropshire County | 11,206 | 36.7 |
| Solihull | 691 | 3.3 |
| Somerset | 15,670 | 28.5 |
| South Birmingham | 1,398 | 3.9 |
| South East Essex | 10,089 | 29.9 |
| South Gloucestershire | 9,926 | 44.5 |
| South Staffordshire | 15,022 | 24.0 |
| South Tyneside | 11,505 | 60.9 |
| South West Essex | 13,247 | 34.0 |
| Southampton City | 7,468 | 32.8 |
| Southwark | 6,221 | 27.0 |
| Stockport | 13,684 | 45.9. |
| Stockton-on-Tees Teaching | 3,237 | 15.2 |
| Stoke on Trent | 8,743 | 26.9 |
| Suffolk | 23,224 | 39.5 |
| Sunderland Teaching | 14,085 | 39.7 |
| Surrey | 46,468 | 50.7 |
| Sutton and Merton | 12,333 | 40.5 |
| Swindon | 3,681 | 19.5 |
| Tameside and Glossop | 6,735 | 25.6 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 4,801 | 28.1 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 93 | 0.5 |
| Tower Hamlets | 3,837 | 18.2 |
| Trafford | 11,635 | 54.0 |
| Wakefield District | 12,370 | 30.2 |
| Walsall Teaching | 5,714 | 19.5 |
| Waltham Forest | 5,666 | 27.1 |
| Wandsworth Teaching | 6,808 | 30.3 |
| Warrington | 1,705 | 8.1 |
| Warwickshire | 14,844 | 28.1 |
| West Essex | 16,662 | 68.0 |
| West Kent | 1,543 | 2.5 |
| West Sussex | 28,474 | 35.9 |
| Western Cheshire | 686 | 2.7 |
| Westminster | 4,376 | 22.8 |
| Wiltshire | 2,580 | 6.2 |
| Wirral | 698 | 1.9 |
| Wolverhampton City | 1,404 | 5.0 |
| Worcestershire | 13,726 | 24.5 |
| Unidentified | 291 | — |
| Total England | 1,484,929 | 28.2 |

*Number of prescription items for medicines to treat Alzheimer's disease that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom, by PCT, November 2010 to October 2011*[1,2,3]

[1] Treatments for Alzheimer's disease are classified in the British National Formulary section 4.11 'Drugs for dementia'. Note that rivastigmine is also licensed for the treatment of dementia in Parkinson's disease.

[2] The Business Services Authority, who reimburse prescriptions and from whom prescription data are obtained, also classify idebenone as a treatment for Alzheimer's disease and so prescriptions for this product (amounting to 27 items across England in the period November 2010 to October 2011) are included in the table.

[3] Some PCTs provide these medicines through hospital clinics rather than through general practices. Such prescriptions amounted to an additional 154,934 items in the period November 2010 to October 2011. These prescriptions cannot be allocated to individual PCTs.

[4] A weighted capitation formula is used to determine PCT recurrent revenue allocations. The formula, based on a programme of statistical and economics research, determines the target allocation for each PCT. Its current objectives, set under the previous Administration, are to support equal access for equal need and to contribute to the reduction in avoidable health inequalities.

The weighted capitation formula is made up of:

a count of the population served by the PCT;

adjustments to reflect the need for health care, including age and other factors, such as deprivation, a component boosting allocations in areas with a low Disability Free Life Expectancy; and an adjustment to reflect unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing health care, the market forces factor (MMF). This is included in the weighted population formula to compensate for unavoidable geographical variations in the cost of providing services (e.g. staff, buildings, land). Since the cost of prescribed medicines does not vary geographically no adjustment for the MFF has been made.

The weighted capitation formula has separate components for health and community services, prescribing and primary care.

*Source*:

Prescribing Analysis and cost tool (PACT) system

## Charities

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* Centrepoint, *(b)* Crisis, *(c)* Skill Force and *(d)* Shelter in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90395]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department can confirm that funding was provided to the named organisations as follows:

| | | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| *Recipient organisations* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* |
| Centrepoint | 0 | 0 |
| Crisis UK | 193,739 | 213,860 |
| Skill Force | .0 | 0 |
| Shelter | 0 | 0 |

It should be noted that the funding for 2011-12 represents the latest allocations for this year and additional funding could be allocated in the remaining months of the financial year.

### Continuing Care

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he is making in implementing the recommendations contained in the report of the Dilnot Commission. [90027]

**Paul Burstow:** The coalition programme set out the Government's clear commitment to reforming the system of social care to provide much more control to individuals and their carers, and to ease the cost burden that they and their families face. This commitment to reform is why we acted quickly to set up the Commission on Funding of Care and Support, which published its report in July 2011.

Government welcomed the report as a valuable contribution to the debate on social care reform, but funding reform is not the only thing that needs to change in the social care system. We want a package of reforms that goes much wider, addresses the key failures of the current system, and ensures that people get the best possible social care.

This is why we have spent the last few months engaging with stakeholders from across the social care community to identify the priorities for reform, and the trade-offs between them. The results of this engagement will inform a White Paper on social care and a progress report on funding reform, which we will publish in the spring.

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the recommendations contained in the report of the Dilnot Commission, if he will consider raising the means-tested threshold above which people are liable for their full care costs to £100,000. [90028]

**Paul Burstow:** The coalition programme set out the Government's clear commitment to reforming the system of social care to provide much more control to individuals and their carers, and to ease the cost burden that they and their families face. This commitment to reform is why we acted quickly to set up the Commission on Funding of Care and Support.

In its terms of reference, the Commission was asked "to examine and provide deliverable recommendations on:

> how best to meet the costs of care and support as a partnership between individuals and the state;
>
> how people could choose to protect their assets, especially their homes, against the cost of care;
>
> how, both now and in the future, public funding for the care and support system can be best used to meet care and support needs; and
>
> how its preferred option can be delivered, including an indication of the timescale for implementation, and its impact on local government (and the local government finance system), the national health service, and—if appropriate—financial regulation."

In response to this challenge, the Commission recommended a cap on people's lifetime care costs, set at between £25,000 and £50,000.

The Commission also recommended that the upper asset threshold of the current means-tested system (which would remain in place with a cap) be raised to £100,000—and this is the recommendation to which the question refers. The Commission said that the extended means test would work with the cap to ensure that, if the cap were set at £35,000, no one would have to use more than 30% of their assets paying for care.

The Commission's report has formed the basis of Government's recent engagement with stakeholders. This engagement exercise brought together the priorities for reform from across the social care system, and examined the trade-offs between them.

The results of the engagement are now published, and Government are using them to inform a White Paper on social care, and a progress report on funding reform, which will be published in the spring.

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the recommendation contained in the report of the Dilnot Commission, if he will consider introducing national eligibility criteria and portable assessments for the provision of adult social care. [90029]

**Paul Burstow:** The coalition programme set out the Government's clear commitment to reforming the system of social care to provide much more control to individuals and their carers, and to ease the cost burden that they and their families face. This commitment to reform is why we acted quickly to set up the Commission on Funding of Care and Support.

In its Terms of Reference, the Commission was asked "to examine and provide deliverable recommendations on:

> how best to meet the costs of care and support as a partnership between individuals and the state;
>
> how people could choose to protect their assets, especially their homes, against the cost of care;
>
> how, both now and in the future, public funding for the care and support system can be best used to meet care and support needs; and
>
> how its preferred option can be delivered, including an indication of the timescale for implementation, and its impact on local government (and the local government finance system), the national health service, and—if appropriate—financial regulation."

In response to this challenge, the Commission made recommendations on a number of aspects of the social care system, including eligibility.

Local authorities are currently required to use the same assessment scale, but are free to set their eligibility threshold at any point on this scale. The Commission recommended that we set a national threshold at "substantial" need.

Care users who move from one local authority to another currently lose their eligibility for care until they are reassessed. The Commission recommended that the rules be changed so that they retain eligibility until they are reassessed.

The Commission's report has formed the basis of Government's recent engagement with stakeholders. This engagement exercise brought together these recommendations with other priorities for reform from across the social care system, and examined the trade-offs between them.

The results of the engagement are now published, and Government are using them to inform a White Paper on social care, and a progress report on funding reform, which will be published in the spring.

### Dementia

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the rates of admission were to hospital for patients over 74 years with a secondary diagnosis of dementia in each primary care trust in England in each of the last 12 months; [89870]

(2) how many bed days were recorded for patients *(a)* over and *(b)* under 74 years with a secondary diagnosis of dementia in each primary care trust in the last year for which figures are available. [89913]

**Paul Burstow:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Doctors: Foreign Workers

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether health regulators are notified automatically when a doctor is struck off in another country. [90349]

**Anne Milton:** There are no obligations on regulators from outside the European economic area to notify the General Medical Council when a doctor is struck-off, although in practice the General Medical Council will normally seek an assurance that a doctor is "in good standing" in their home country before registering them.

There are requirements on European Union competent authorities to exchange information with each other under Directive 2005/36/EC (under articles 8 and 56) both when a health professional seeks to register in a new member state and at other times. However, the requirements do not currently amount to an obligation to notify other competent authorities when a doctor is struck off and the duty is only engaged where a request for information is made by another competent authority.

The European Commission, in its proposed revision to the directive on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications has proposed a stronger alert mechanism underpinned by a clear duty on member states to share information where there are concerns about the practice of any health care professional.

### Drugs: Misuse

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people being treated for addiction to opiate-based prescription drugs in each primary care trust; [90336]

(2) what recent consideration he has given to the recommendations made by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Drug Misuse in its report on Physical Dependence and Addiction to Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medication. [90337]

**Anne Milton:** In May 2011, two evidence-gathering reports looking at the problem of addiction to prescription and over-the-counter medicines were published. These reports were commissioned in response to the concerns raised in the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Drug Misuse report on physical dependence and addiction to prescription and over-the-counter medication.

Following publication of the reports, I convened a roundtable discussion on the issue of addiction to medicines, which identified a number of concrete actions to take forward. These will be reviewed when the roundtable group reconvenes later this year.

There are no nationally published figures on the number of people being treated for addiction to opiate-based prescription drugs in each primary care trust. The report on addiction to medicines from The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse provides information on the yearly number of patients entering drug treatment services for addiction to prescribed opiates and the numbers of those who entered treatment without associated illicit drug use between 2005 and 2010. Local prescribing data may have more information on the total number being treated for addiction to opiates-based prescription drugs at primary care trust level.

### Health Professions

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the additional time taken by *(a)* GPs, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* health visitors, *(d)* pharmacists, *(e)* dentists and *(f)* opticians in raising lifestyle health issues in every encounter with patients under the proposals of the NHS Future Forum. [90293]

**Anne Milton:** No such estimate has been made. It is not necessarily about additional time but using that contact time more effectively.

### Health Services: Older People

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the admission rates were to hospital from a nursing home or residential care home for people aged under 74 in each primary care trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [90401]

**Paul Burstow:** The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care collects data on finished admission episodes as part of Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). HES data on the number of finished admission episodes for those aged 74 and under, by source of admission and primary care trust of residence, for the year 2010-11, have been placed in the Library.

### Medical Equipment

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what systems his Department has in place to ensure the adequacy of the regulatory system for medical devices. [89878]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Medical devices placed on the market in Europe, including the United Kingdom, are done so under the European Medical Devices Directives.

Under these directives member states are required to set up a competent authority who have a mainly post-market surveillance role which includes an obligation to withdraw or restrict devices from the market or from being used which may compromise the health and safety of patients, users or, where applicable, other persons. In the UK this authority has been delegated by the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency who have a range of enforcement powers and sanctions available under the Consumer Protection Act 1987. They are also responsible for negotiating within Europe any changes to the directive which become apparent through experience in consultation within government and industry.

The European Directives covering medical devices are shortly due to be revised and the UK will be pushing for a number of improvements to the existing system.

### Medical Records

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of providing patients with online access to their records under the proposals of the NHS Future Forum. [90292]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are very grateful for the diligent, considered and thorough approach taken by NHS Future Forum members. We are already engaged in in-depth evaluation of the Future Forum's report and we will set out our proposals in respect of their recommendations in the forthcoming Information Strategy. The Information Strategy, which will be published by April this year, will be informed by analysis of the supporting evidence, impacts, costs and benefits—including analysis of equalities issues.

We also welcome the Forum's proposal that a partnership of the Royal College of General Practitioners, the British Medical Association, the NHS Commissioning Board and relevant patient organisations should be invited to develop a plan for the roll-out of access to patient records by 2015. We will engage with these organisations on how best to take this forward, including consideration of impacts, costs and benefits, some of which will be dependent on local decisions.

### Mental Health Services

**Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of consideration of patient care made by health commissioners transferring mental health patients as part of the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention agenda; and if he will make a statement. [89779]

**Mr Simon Burns:** As set out in "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12", at a regional and local level, the national health service has developed integrated plans that set out how it will drive up the quality and productivity of services by 2014-15.

We have been clear that these plans must demonstrate how any proposals, which would include any locally determined proposals around the care for mental health patients, will ensure quality is maintained or improved whilst generating Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention efficiency savings.

### NHS: Capital Investment

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to his Department's radiotherapy dataset report published in August 2011, what steps he plans to take to ensure part of the £300 million made available for capital expenditure projects is used to address inequalities in the availability of radiotherapy equipment between the North East and London; [89960]

(2) with reference to the £300 million announced for new NHS capital expenditure projects, which *(a)* foundation hospitals, *(b)* strategic health authorities and *(c)* primary care trusts in the North East were informed of this new funding; and how long have they been given to apply for it. [90014]

**Tessa Munt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to his Department's radiotherapy dataset report published in August 2011, if he will direct funds from the announced £300 million fund for new capital projects towards redressing geographically-based inequalities in the provision of radiotherapy equipment in England; and if he will make a statement; [90024]

(2) with reference to the announcement of an extra £300 million for new capital expenditure projects in the NHS, whether primary care trusts that cancelled capital projects in 2011 due to funding will be able to revive them through access to the fund; [90025]

(3) when the decision was made to release an extra £300 million for new capital projects in the NHS; when primary care trusts (PCTs) were informed of his decision; whether all *(a)* foundation hospitals, *(b)* strategic health authorities and *(c)* PCTs in the South West were informed; when the closing date is for applications to the new fund; and if he will make a statement. [90026]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We have identified capital funding which could be made available to the national health service. We are now in discussions with the NHS to see how it could best be spent. However, no decisions have been taken and no deadlines established at national level. Further announcements will be made when the best possible use of this capital funding has been identified.

### Nurses

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether nurses on wards will be required to log the hourly visits to patients under the Prime Minister's proposals. [90294]

**Anne Milton:** It is for local national health service organisations to decide how they monitor hourly ward rounds. Encouraging nurses to carry out hourly ward rounds is about showing staff what is already working in some places and what the rest can do to achieve the level of the best. It is not about adding a new burden of bureaucracy to nursing. The newly established independent Nursing and Care Quality Forum will be tasked with ensuring the best nursing practice, including hourly nursing rounds, is spread throughout the NHS and social care.

### Plastic Surgery: Breasts

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* number and *(b)* value was of NHS contracts with PIP for breast implants in each of the last 10 years. [89948]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We do not hold this information centrally. We are seeking more robust information about the number of women affected from national health service hospitals and private clinics.

### Primary Care Trusts: Finance

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what figures were used by his Department for each component of the formula used in calculating the funding per head for the West Kent Primary Care Trust in the latest year for which figures are available; [89349]

(2) if he will set out the formula used by his Department in calculating the funding per head for each primary care trust in England in the latest year for which figures are available; [89350]

(3) what the amount of funding per head was for each primary care trust in England in the latest year for which figures are available. [89351]

**Mr Simon Burns:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement given by the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), on 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 102WS. This provided a link to the Department's primary care trust (PCT) allocations webpage where full details of the calculations used to determine the 2012-13 PCT allocations are available, including per capita figures for all PCTs.

To allow the national health service financial stability during a period of transition, a uniform uplift of 3% was applied to all PCTs in their 2012-13 recurrent revenue allocations.

### Sexual Offences: Health Services

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the NHS North Yorkshire on the role of the local primary care trust in the sexual assault and rape centre being set up in North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [90135]

**Anne Milton:** The development of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) is a matter for local determination. SARCs are commissioned on a collaborative basis by police forces and primary care trusts (PCTs). As such, the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has had no recent discussions with North Yorkshire and York PCT about the establishment of a SARC in the North Yorkshire area. My hon. Friend may wish to approach the chief executive of the PCT, which may hold some relevant information.

### Spinal Muscular Atrophy

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department allocated to research on spinal muscular atrophy in the latest period for which figures are available. [89789]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Estimated spend by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) on directly-funded research on spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) in 2010-11 is £0.4 million. In addition the NIHR clinical research network is currently hosting one study on SMA.

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the standard of NHS care for *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with spinal muscular atrophy; and if he will make a statement. [89790]

**Paul Burstow:** Currently the 10 specialised commissioning groups for England are consulting on draft service specifications for neuromuscular services and for wheelchair services. These service specifications, which set out the standards of service that all neuromuscular patients should expect to receive, will be finalised by April 2012, when the specialised commissioning groups will start to implement them.

We have made no recent assessment of the standard of national health service care for those living with spinal muscular atrophy.

**Mr Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to offer screening for the spinal muscular atrophy gene on the NHS. [89791]

**Paul Burstow:** The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy and supports implementation. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, it assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria.

The UK NSC regularly reviews policy on screening for different conditions in the light of new research evidence becoming available. Where stakeholder organisations feel that there is enough evidence published in peer reviewed journals to consider screening for a condition they can submit a policy proposal to the UK NSC. Further information is available on UK NSC's website at:

www.screening.nhs.uk/policyreview

## CABINET OFFICE

### Aviation

**Mark Field:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many interviews the International Passenger Survey conducted in each year from 2004 to 2010; and what the nationality was of each interviewee. [89918]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question asking how many interviews the International Passenger Survey conducted in each year from 2004 to 2010: and what the nationality was of each interviewee. [89918]

I am able to report the answer to this question in the form of a data table, copies of which have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

## Childbirth: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the birth rate was in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley in the last period for which figures are available. [90584]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the birth rate was in (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (b) the London Borough of Bexley in the last period for which figures are available (90584).

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has been supplied as this is the most useful measure of an area's fertility level. The TFR is the average number of live children that a group of women would each bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.

*Total Fertility Rate (TFR), selected areas, 2010*

| *Area* | *TFR* |
|---|---|
| (a) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency | 2.01 |
| (b) Bexley London Borough | 2.04 |

## Public Sector

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89709]

**Mr Maude:** Table 1 as follows categorises how much was paid to officials in the Cabinet Office in *(a)* variable non-consolidated performance related awards and *(b)* allowances in relation to the total Cabinet Office pay bill in each of the last two years for which fully audited figures are available, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

An element of the Cabinet Office's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated awards related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

The Cabinet Office uses pay allowances as a cost effective way to recruit and retain staff to posts that require specialist skills or long or un-social hours and to staff performing duties at a higher grade on a temporary basis. Allowances are non-consolidated monthly payments which are paid in lieu of a consolidated increase to basic salary and cease when staff move from qualifying posts.

*Table 1*

£

| *Payment category* | *Monetary value paid in 2009-10* | *Monetary value paid in 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|
| (C) Non-consolidated variable performance related awards[1] | 2,264,417 | 1,856,242 |
| (D) Allowances | 1,793,239 | 1,651,396 |
| Total pay bill[2] | 124,176,000 | 127,655,000 |

[1] Includes end-year awards, in-year awards and awards paid to staff from other Government Departments in the Cabinet Office

[2] Published in the Cabinet Office resource accounts for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The Cabinet Office headcount (excluding agencies) increased from 1,300 full-time employee (FTE) in Quarter 1 2010 to 1670 FTE in Quarter 2 2010 as a result of Machinery of Government changes following the general election

The 20 largest such payments made in 2009-10 and 2010-11 in the Cabinet Office and its NDPBs were in relation to allowances and non-consolidated performance awards as detailed in table 2 as follows.

*Table 2*

*20 largest payments made in 2009-10*

| *Payment type* | *Payment band* | *Number of payments made* |
|---|---|---|
| Non-consolidated performance related award[1] | £40,000 to £44,999 | 1 |
| Non-consolidated performance related award[1] | £30,000 to £34,999 | 1 |
| Allowance | £20,000 to £24,999 | 1 |
| Non-consolidated performance related award | £15,000 to £19,999 | 8 |
| Allowance | £10,000 to £14,999 | 9 |

*20 largest payments made in 2010-11*

| *Payment type* | *Payment value* | *Payments made* |
|---|---|---|
| Non-consolidated performance related award | £40,000 to £44,999 | 1 |
| Allowance | £15,000 to £19,999 | 1 |
| Allowance | £10,000 to £14,999 | 14 |
| Non-consolidated performance related award | £10,000 to £14,999 | 4 |

[1] Contractual non-standard senior civil service non-consolidated awards determined by non-standard contracts, put in place before 2009-10 and that are no longer in place.

### Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in his Department in each month between September and November 2011. [87964]

**Mr Maude:** No redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in my Department between September and November 2011.

### Government Departments: Contracts

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how often performance indicators for Government services outsourced to private companies are reviewed. [90034]

**Mr Maude:** The responsibility for reviewing performance indicators rests with the individual contracting authorities, as these will vary according to the contract.

### Unemployment: Scotland

**Mr Davidson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office from which occupational groups people became unemployed in *(a)* Glasgow South West constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [90362]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking from which occupational groups people became unemployed in (a) Glasgow South West constituency, (b) Glasgow, (c) Scotland and (d) the UK in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. (90362)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Estimates of unemployment for the requested breakdown are not available from this source.

As an alternative, Tables 1 to 4, shows the number of people who had flowed onto Jobseeker's Allowance by occupation in the last 12 months, resident in Glasgow South West, Glasgow City, Scotland and the UK, in each month from November 2010 to November 2011.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Copies of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Azerbaijan: Politics and Government

**Bob Blackman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has written to the Government of Azerbaijan to express his condolences on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of civilians in Baku on 20 January 1990. [89996]

**Mr Lidington:** The Government are aware of the tragic incidents that took place in Baku in January 1990 and during the ensuing conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh. Many thousands of Azerbaijanis and Armenians were displaced from their homes, with deaths estimated to run to several hundred. The responsibility for these deaths and the casualties in the conflict, which continues today, are disputed by the two parties. We have not sent letters of condolence to either Government. The process of reconciliation for their shared history forms part of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk group peace process.

We extend our deepest sympathies to all the families of the victims and call on all sides to redouble their efforts to reach a negotiated settlement.

### Public Sector

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89696]

**Mr Bellingham:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff may be eligible for certain allowances depending upon where they are posted to work; in the United Kingdom or in a mission overseas.

Non-consolidated performance pay is focused on rewarding high levels of performance. It is an integral element of the reward package for staff, has to be re-earned each year and does not add to future pay bill costs. The following total amounts were paid to staff:

2009-10—£6,682,843

2010-11—£6,185,854

There is also an in year performance award scheme devolved to Directorates to allow them to recognise achievement by their own staff below the SCS. Nominations are moderated within the Directorate for balance and fairness. The following total amounts were paid to staff:

2009-10—£437,874

2010-11—£494,603

For allowances and other payments in addition to basic salary paid in 2009-10 I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 18 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 903W, by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt).

I will write to my hon. Friend, and place a copy in the Library of the House when information for 2010-11 become available along with a breakdown of the 20 largest monetary values in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally. To provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to reorganise the structure of senior officials in his Department with responsibility for European affairs. [89375]

**Mr Lidington:** Following a review of resources in Europe Directorate last year, a new Additional Director post has been created to work in partnership with the existing Europe Director.

### EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88965]

**Mr Lidington:** In the period from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011 the FCO brought forward four orders which related to EU obligations. Three of these were specification orders made pursuant to the European Communities Act 1972 relating to EU/third country agreements. The fourth order related to technical amendments to UK law to take account of changes in terminology introduced by the Lisbon treaty, for example replacing references to 'the European Community' with references to 'the European Union'. The orders are:

2010/766 The European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Stabilisation and Association Agreement) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) Order 2010

2011/742 The European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Stabilisation and Association Agreement) (Republic of Serbia) Order 2011

2011/743 The European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Partnership and Cooperation Agreement) (Republic of Indonesia) Order 2011

2011/1043 The Treaty of Lisbon (Changes in Terminology) Order 2011.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which EU *(a)* Directives, *(b)* Regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89695]

**Mr Lidington:** EU legislation for which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is responsible is rarely required to be transposed into UK law. The FCO is responsible for ensuring that EU/third country agreements are specified pursuant to the European Communities Act 1972 and, for example, the FCO was responsible for bringing three specification Orders into force from 2010 to 2011. The Government assesses that the three agreements so specified did not impose any burdens on private industry. The fourth piece of legislation which was made during the same period is an Order which made technical amendments to UK law to take account of changes in terminology introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, for example replacing references to 'the European Community' with references to 'the European Union'. There are no costs to the public purse or the private sector in the UK as a result of these technical amendments.

### European External Action Service

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the monetary value is of the UK's contribution to the EU External Action Service in 2011-12; and what it is estimated to be in each of the next five years. [90196]

**Mr Lidington:** The UK contributes to the EU budget as a whole and not to specific programmes within it. There is not, therefore, a specific contribution to the EU External Action Service expenditure. The latest forecast of the UK's contributions to the EU budget is presented in the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook of November 2011:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/economic-and-fiscal-outlook-november-2011/

### Falkland Islands: Sovereignty

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken in response to the decision by Argentina and other South American countries to close their ports to ships flying the flag of the Falkland Islands. [89655]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) said in his written ministerial statement of 10 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 5-6WS, we consider that the decision to close ports to ships flying the Falklands flag has no legal basis. While we do not accept Mercosur's announcement, our priority has been to ensure that trade and commercial links between the Falklands and South America are not compromised by this political declaration. Brazil, Chile and Uruguay have told us that all Falklands-related commercial shipping will continue to enjoy access to their ports, in accordance with domestic and international law, if they are flying the Red Ensign or another national flag when docked. We will continue to protest against Argentina's attempts to deny the people of the Falkland Islands their right to trade openly and without hindrance.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the EU, *(b)* his counterparts in other EU member states and *(c)* the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs on the decision of Argentina and other South American countries to close their ports to ships flying the flag of the Falkland Islands; and what action will be taken at an EU level in response to this decision. [89656]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) said in his written ministerial statement of 10 January 2012, *Official Report,* columns 5-6WS, we consider that the decision to close ports to ships flying the Falklands flag has no legal basis. We have raised our concerns with all EU member states, the EU Commission, the Office of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and others within the European External Action Service. The Falkland Islands is recognised under EU Treaty as a UK Territory associated with the EU.

### Fiji: Religious Freedom

**Nicola Blackwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on treatment of members of the Methodist Church in Fiji; and if he will make a statement. [89625]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Our high commission in Suva regularly reports on the political situation in Fiji.

The British Government are deeply concerned by reports of restrictions on freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association being placed upon members of the Methodist Church in Fiji.

On 12 October 2011 I raised our concerns with the Fijian high commissioner to London, expressing dismay at these developments and noting that this latest action by the authorities in Fiji can only serve to increase their isolation from the international community.

On 7 January 2012 Fiji's interim Prime Minister, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, lifted the Public Emergency Regulations; however there are reports that the Public Order Act has been strengthened. Our High Commission in Suva will continue to maintain close contact with the Methodist Church and will continue to lobby the interim Government in Fiji to remove restrictions regarding peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

### Gifts and Endowments

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance is given in relation to the receipt of gifts from foreign Governments on official visits; and whether such guidance is given to members of the royal family. [89446]

**Mr Bellingham:** The guidance for Ministers accepting gifts during official visits comes under the ministerial code issued by Cabinet Office and available on the Cabinet Office website[1].

The guidance and procedures governing the acceptance, classification, recording, retention and disposal of gifts by members of the royal family is published on the official website of the British monarchy[2].

[1] http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/ministerial-code-may-2010.pdf

[2] http://www.royal.gov.uk/LatestNewsandDiary/Pressreleases/2003/Guidelinesandproceduresrelatingtogifts.aspx

### Libya: Females

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has *(a)* received on and *(b)* made to the Libyan authorities on the draft election law proposed by Libya's electoral commission allocating 10 per cent. of seats to women. [90452]

**Alistair Burt:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have been contacted by a number of non-governmental organisations to express concerns about the draft legislation. Our embassy in Tripoli has been in contact with the National Transitional Council (NTC) and a range of Libyan civil society representatives, including representatives of women's groups, about the terms of the draft electoral legislation, including the terms of the quota for women and how this would be implemented. A senior member of the NTC Election Committee confirmed to our ambassador on 11 January that the 10% quota contained within the current draft was a minimum rather than a limit. The UN Support Mission in Libya, with whom our embassy is in close touch, is supporting the NTC's Election Committee, offering technical advice and discussing how to take into account the many representations received by that Committee.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the National Transitional Council of Libya on the involvement of women in the democratic transition process. [90453]

**Alistair Burt:** When the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), spoke to Prime Minister al-Kib in November 2011 to congratulate him on his appointment, he underlined the importance of ensuring that women play an integral role in the evolving democratic process. The UK co-funded the first Libyan National Women's Conference in November 2011 during which women put their concerns directly to Chairman Jalil and Transitional Government Prime Minister al-Kib. During my visit to Tripoli in December 2011, I spoke to senior members of the Transitional Government and civil society groups about the importance of ensuring the full participation of women in shaping the democratic future of Libya. Our ambassador in Tripoli met a senior member of the National Transitional Council Election Committee on 11 January to discuss the recently published draft electoral legislation and to clarify the terms under which women would be included in the democratic process. Officials in London and Tripoli also supporting Libyan women's groups in developing effective mechanisms to ensure that women's views are heard and taken into consideration.

### Libya: Nuclear Power

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which information that has recently become available in Libya indicates the involvement of A.Q. Khan in the previous Libyan Government's nuclear programme. [89954]

**Alistair Burt:** The involvement of A.Q. Khan and his network in supplying the Libyan nuclear programme between 1997 and 2003 has been extensively documented. Libya declared to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it received documentation related to nuclear weapon design and fabrication, as well as pre-assembled centrifuges and components. No information has come to light that changes our assessment of the role of the Khan network, and our current priority for Libya's nuclear programme is unchanged, namely the securing of Libya's yellowcake stocks under IAEA supervision.

### Nigeria: Politics and Government

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Nigeria. [89510]

**Mr Bellingham:** The elections held in Nigeria last April were widely regarded as the most credible since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, and have strengthened the political and democratisation process there.

Increases in terrorist attacks and outbreaks of sectarian violence have posed serious challenges over past months to the Nigerian Government. Since the new year, protests and strikes against the Nigerian Government's decision to remove fuel subsidies have also caused disruption. The subsidy was economically unsustainable, but it is important that subsequent economic reforms benefit the people of Nigeria.

In September last year the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and I discussed the general security situation with the Nigerian Foreign Minister, Olugbenga Ashiru. I reiterated our commitment to working with the Nigerian authorities to combat the threat of terrorism in Nigeria. During the Prime Minister's visit to Nigeria in July 2011, the Prime Minister and President Jonathan agreed that the UK would provide assistance and expertise to help strengthen and reform Nigeria's security apparatus and structures, including helping Nigeria establish a COBRA equivalent for use in situations of national emergency. The UK has shared its expertise on counter-terrorism policy, doctrine and legal frameworks, and also provided assistance with specific capabilities such as managing the consequences of terrorist attacks. In all cases the co-operation has emphasised compliance with international human rights. The British Government have supported non-governmental organisations in northern Nigeria to facilitate dialogue between communities, and the Department for International Development supports programmes that aim to address some of the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty and unequal division of power and resources.

We will continue to monitor changes in the Nigerian political landscape, and to support the Nigerian Government's aim of making Nigeria a peaceful and prosperous nation.

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* support and *(b)* advice his Department is providing to the Nigerian authorities on the security situation in Nigeria. [89511]

**Mr Bellingham:** The elections held in Nigeria last April were widely regarded as the most credible since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, and have strengthened the political and democratisation process there.

Increases in terrorist attacks and outbreaks of sectarian violence have posed serious challenges over past months to the Nigerian Government. Since the new year, protests and strikes against the Nigerian Government's decision to remove fuel subsidies have also caused disruption. The subsidy was economically unsustainable, but it is important that subsequent economic reforms benefit the people of Nigeria.

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## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was paid to officials in his office in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89710]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** For the purposes of corporate administration and financial management, my office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) today.

## EDUCATION

### Charities: Finance

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* Action on Addiction, *(b)* Adoption UK, *(c)* the Adoption and Fostering Information Line, *(d)* the Child Bereavement Charity, *(e)* Well Child and *(f)* each of East Anglia's children's hospices in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [89768]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The Department has not provided funding with any of these organisations in financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

### Children

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the number of children under local authority care who are considered to have additional needs in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each local authority. [90005]

**Tim Loughton:** The number of children who had been looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March 2010 in England who had a special educational need was 20,100 (68.7% of the total number of children who had been looked after continuously for 12 months).

This information is contained in the Statistical First Release (Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2010) which was published on 16 December 2010 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000978/index.shtml

Information is also published within this release at local authority level. This information is contained in table LA8, which can be accessed in the above Statistical First Release (via the Excel link "These tables includes local authority tables showing SEN, offending, substance misuse and health care of looked after children" on the release's web page).

Information for the year ending 31 March 2011 will be released in spring 2012.

The Department is responsible for children who are looked after by local authorities in England. Information on children who are looked after in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is collected by the devolved Administrations; however this is subject to different legislation and collected via different data systems.

### Children: Disability

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what oversight his Department has over implementation of local authority policies for the distribution and use of direct payments for disabled children; [89712]

(2) what his policy is on the standardisation of local authority policies on how parents may spend direct payments for disabled children; [89713]

(3) what representations he has received on the policies of local authorities to restrict the use of direct payments for disabled children so as to prohibit their use for after school clubs and school holiday activities. [89714]

**Sarah Teather:** 'Community care, services for carers and children's services (Direct Payments) guidance' England 2009 provides guidance to local authorities making direct payments. The guidance sets out how local authorities might manage and administer direct payments based on local needs, priorities and resources.

Local authorities are advised to monitor and keep under review the direct payment to ensure that it continues to meet individual need and that the scheme is operating effectively.

The purpose of the direct payment is to give flexibility and choice to families with disabled children that will enable them to secure an individualised rather than standard package of support.

Over the last year, the Department has been asked to review one case involving the use of direct payments for disabled children in relation to after school clubs and school holiday activities.

This Government are committed to exploring how direct payments can be expanded beyond existing arrangements. New powers in the Education Act 1996, inserted by the Education Act 2011, give the Secretary of State for Education the power to create pilot schemes to test the use of direct payments to secure services for children and young people who have been assessed as having special educational needs.

### Children's Centres

**Elizabeth Truss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much has been spent on *(a)* Sure Start, *(b)* early years entitlement and *(c)* Sure Start maternity grants in each year since 1997. [89107]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* The information requested is as follows:

*Sure Start*

Sure Start funding has been provided via a number of mechanisms throughout the life of the programme. Initially it was provided directly to Sure Start local programmes and subsequently to local authorities through the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant and its predecessor the General Sure Start Grant.

The first Sure Start local programmes (SSLPs) were set up in 1999-2000 and received a single capital allocation for the period 1999 to 2006 of £479,638,144.

The spend by local authorities on Sure Start is shown in Table 1.

*Table 1*

| | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Revenue* | *Capital* | *Total* |
| 1999-2000 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2000-01 | 33 | 0 | 33 |
| 2001-02 | 105 | 0 | 105 |
| 2002-03 | 174 | 0 | 174 |
| 2003-04 | 149 | 3 | 152 |
| 2004-06[1] | 1,559 | 232 | 1,791 |
| 2006-07 | 979 | 245 | 1,224 |
| 2007-08 | 1,342 | 436 | 1,778 |
| 2008-09 | 1,304 | 344 | 1,648 |
| 2009-10 | 1,524 | 330 | 1,854 |

[1] In 2004-06 local authorities received a two-year allocation.

Complete expenditure information on Sure Start for 2010-11 is not yet available. The Sure Start allocations for local authorities in 2010-11 were:

Revenue: £1,189,133,720

Capital: £367,499,500

Total: £2,206,633,220.

In addition to the spend reported in Table 1, local authorities also received funding from 1998 to 2003 for which local authority spend data are not available. These allocations are shown in Table 2.

*Table 2*

| | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Revenue* | *Capital* | *Total* |
| 1998-99 | 140 | 0 | 140 |
| 1999-00 | 192 | 0 | 192 |
| 2000-01 | 353 | 0 | 353 |
| 2001-02 | 449 | 0 | 449 |
| 2002-03 | 501 | 23 | 524 |

Since April 2011 the Department for Education has provided local authorities with funding through the Early Intervention Grant, which replaces a number of centrally-directed ring-fenced grants for children, young people and family services. The Early Intervention Grant is a non-ringfenced grant and provides funding to enable local authorities to act more strategically and target investment early, where it will have the greatest impact, with greater flexibility to respond to local needs and drive reform. The Early Intervention Grant allocated £2,231,981,341 to local authorities in 2011-12 and the indicative allocation for 2012-13 is £2,365,200,001. It is important to note here that the 2011-12 figure includes funding in recognition of pilot activity but funding for pilots in 2012-13 is still to be confirmed.

*Early Years Entitlement*

Funding for free early education places for three and four-year-olds is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which supports the majority of education provision for children aged three to 16. Local authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forum, decide how best to distribute funding across their locality and local authorities set their own local rates of funding to early years providers. No national funding allocation figure is available.

Local authorities report on financial expenditure through section 251 returns. The Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) was introduced in every LA from April 2011. Because of the way section 251 operated prior to the introduction of the EYSFF, it is not possible to obtain complete data on free early education spend for LAs before the EYSFF. The estimated spend on three and four-year-old early education for 2011-12 is £1.9 billion.

*Sure Start Maternity Grants*

The Sure Start maternity grant is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions. The expenditure on maternity payments and Sure Start maternity grants is shown in Table 3.

*Table 3*

| | *Type of payment* | *Expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | Maternity Payment | 20 |
| 1998-99 | Maternity Payment | 18 |
| 1999-2000 | Maternity Payment | 17 |
| 2000-01[1] | Maternity Payment | 2 |
| (SSMGs phased in)[1] | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 42.4 |
| 2001-02 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 61.2 |
| 2002-03 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 110.5 |
| 2003-04 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 120.5 |
| 2004-05 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 119.5 |
| 2005-06 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 120.6 |
| 2006-07 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 120.1 |
| 2007-08 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 123.1 |
| 2008-9 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 133.3 |
| 2009-10 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 138.8 |
| 2010-11 | Sure Start Maternity Grant | 130.9 |

[1] Sure Start Maternity Grants (SSMGs) replaced Maternity Payments in 2000-01. SSMGs were phased in from 27 March 2000 to replace Maternity Payments hence expenditure on both 2000-01.

## Children: Funding

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much funding his Department allocated in total to *(a)* the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, *(b)* the British Association for Early Childhood Education, *(c)* the British Dyslexia Association, *(d)* Catch 22, *(e)* Children England, *(f)* the Children's Legal Centre, *(g)* the Daycare Trust, *(h)* the Family and Parenting Institute, *(i)* Family Action, *(j)* the Family Rights Group, *(k)* the National Children's Bureau, *(l)* National Family Mediation, *(m)* the NSPCC and *(n)* Netmums Ltd in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement; [88336]

(2) how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* Parenting UK, *(b)* Parentline Plus, *(c)* Parentline Plus, Got a Teenager, *(d)* Personal Finance Education Group, *(e)* Pre-School Learning Alliance, *(f)* Relate, *(g)* The Prince's Trust, *(h)* The Princess Royal Trust, *(i)* Raleigh International and *(j)* Time For Families in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [87933]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The following table sets out DFE spend with each of the organisations:

| *Organisation* | *2010-11 (actuals) (full year)* | *£*<br>*2011-12 (actuals) (spend to end of December 2011)* |
|---|---|---|
| The British Association for Adoption and Fostering | 1,318,173 | 889,865 |
| The British Association for Early Childhood Education | 50,000 | 104,855 |
| The British Dyslexia Association | 1,099,581 | 541,394 |
| Catch 22 | 928,288 | 77,670 |
| Children England | 916,564 | 688,825 |
| The Children's Legal Centre | 433,397 | 370,388 |
| The Daycare Trust | 394,527 | 319,491 |
| The Family and Parenting Institute | 8,845,231 | 180,591 |
| Family Action | 98,325 | 0 |
| The Family Rights Group | 608,458 | 298,705 |
| The National Children's Bureau | 11,882,717 | 919,442 |
| National Family Mediation | 210,000 | 0 |
| The NSPCC | 6,961,971 | 2,535,715 |
| Netmums Ltd | 814,465 | 582,075 |
| Parenting UK | 250,000 | 61,473 |
| Parentline Plus (includes figures for Got a Teenager which was absorbed into the Family Lives work in July 2011) | 3,459,785 | 158,628 |
| Personal Finance Education Group | 3,316,049 | 0 |
| Pre-School Learning Alliance | 1,390,675 | 474,696 |
| Relate | 3,129,708 | 1,444,473 |
| The Prince's Trust[1] | 133,695 | 357,333 |
| The Princess Royal Trust | 513,359 | 104,651 |
| Raleigh International | 61,952 | 0 |
| Time for Families | 180,000 | 79,372 |

[1] Merged with Fairbridge in 2011: 2011-12 funding is to merged organisation.

The amount paid to each organisation is readily available from the Department's finance systems. Allocations often vary, sometimes considerably, between the initial funding decision and the final amount provided. For this reason, we answer funding questions using spend data rather than allocation data.

The figures in the table above reflect only direct funding from DFE via national grants and contracts. The voluntary and community sector receives money indirectly from DFE through a number of routes, including funding through Executive agencies (and previously arm's length bodies), through the money we give to local authorities and from services commissioned from schools.

The voluntary and community sector plays and will continue to play, a vital role in developing and delivering services for children, young people and families. However, in a tough financial climate where public finance constraints are required, we must focus the money we have effectively and ensure the best use of limited public funds. Only activities of national significance are being funded centrally by the Department. Inevitably the scale and scope of these activities will change year on year in order to address national priorities identified.

## Departmental Pay

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the total value was of performance-related pay received by staff in his Department at each grade in each of the last five years. [90020]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education (DfE) was created on 12 May 2010.

An accurate split of non-consolidated performance awards by grade is not available from the previous Departments' legacy systems. The following table shows the information which can be provided, which relates to the last two full financial years. These payments are central to the Department's total reward strategy and help to drive high performance and act as a positive incentive for staff.

Total value of performance-related pay received by staff in DFE by grade (please note these figures have been rounded and payments relate to performance in the previous financial year)

| | | £ |
|---|---:|---:|
| *Grade* | *2011/12* | *2010/11* |
| EA | 59,000 | 70,000 |
| EO | 160,000 | 160,000 |
| HEO | 190,000 | 200,000 |
| SEO | 210,000 | 240,000 |
| G7 | 280,000 | 360,000 |
| G6 | 100,000 | 130,000 |
| Deputy director | 190,000 | 530,000 |
| Director | 60,000 | 180,000 |
| Director general | 0 | 48,000 |
| Total | 1,249,000 | 1,918,000 |

While we cannot break down the performance related pay by grade for previous years, information can be provided on the total non-consolidated performance related awards made in the Department and its predecessors, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Education and Skills, since 2007. This shows the total number of staff who received a bonus compared to the average numbers of staff in post over the year. The policy has always been to apply a percentage approach to the award of the bonuses by grade, to ensure that all grades have an equal opportunity to be awarded any bonuses which are in payment.

Total paid as non-consolidated performance related awards compared to the number of staff in post (please note these figures have been rounded)

| | *Department and predecessor Departments* | *Total paid as non-consolidated performance related awards (£)* | *Total number of staff receiving Bonus* | *Average staff numbers over the year* |
|---|---|---:|---:|---:|
| 2011/12 | Department for Education | 1,250,000 | 650 | 2950 |
| 2010/11 | Department for Education (from 12 May 2010) | 1,900,000 | 1,400 | 2740 |
| 2009/10 | Department for Children, Schools and Families (until 11 May 2010) | 1,900,000 | 1,400 | 3030 |
| 2008/09 | Department for Children, Schools and Families | 1,900,000 | 1,400 | 2821 |
| 2007/08 | Department for Education and Skills | 1,900,000 | 1,200 | 2900 |

## Early Intervention Grant

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Gateshead of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1229W, on Early Intervention Fund, how much funding he allocated to the Early Intervention Fund in 2011-12; and how much each recipient received. [89841]

**Sarah Teather:** £2,231,981,341 was allocated to local authorities through the Early Intervention Grant in 2011-12. The total amount of funding allocated to the Early Intervention Grant has increased since the question asked by the hon. Member for Gateshead (Ian Mearns), in recognition of pilot activities being undertaken by a number of local authorities.

A breakdown of the allocation, detailing the level of funding each local authority received, can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/?cid=LAemail&pla=25feb2011&type=email

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that the Early Intervention Grant allocation for 2011-12 does not represent a real terms funding reduction for local authorities after inflation is taken into account. [88532]

**Sarah Teather:** The Early Intervention Grant came into existence in April 2011 and brought together existing funding streams from the Department for Education, excluding schools funding, into a single non-ringfenced grant. At the 2010 spending review it was necessary to reduce the amount of funding given to local authorities to begin the work of repairing the public finances. The allocations for EIG in 2011-12 represent an average 10.5% reduction compared with the predecessor grants in 2010-11. However, by removing the ringfences from the funding, the EIG gives LAs the flexibility to respond to local needs and drive reform, while supporting a focus on early intervention services across the age range.

The core EIG in 2011-12, excluding pilot funding, was £2.223 billion but the core EIG, excluding pilot funding, in 2012-13 will be worth £2.365 billion, which represents an increase of 6.4%.

## Faith Schools: Transport

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will provide additional ring-fenced funding to local education authorities for the purpose of funding home-to-school transport for pupils in faith schools. [90390]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* The vast majority of home to school transport, for both statutory and discretionary activity, is funded through the Revenue Support Grant, paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and locally generated council tax. In addition, the Secretary of State allocated £85 million (for 2011-12 and 2012-13) to help local authorities meet their statutory duties in respect of home to school transporter low-income families. In the last spending review period (SR10) the Government announced an end to ring-fenced funding, other than for some education and health funding.

## Mothers: Kent

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of mothers aged 16 to 19 were in *(a)* education, *(b)* employment and *(c)* training in (i) Chatham and Aylesford constituency, (ii) Medway unitary authority and (iii) Tonbridge and Malling borough council in each of the last 10 years. [90339]

**Tim Loughton:** The following table shows the proportion of teenage mothers who participated in education, employment and training (EET) between 2002 and 2011. Data at constituency and borough level are not available and the figures cannot be broken down for education, employment and training separately.

*Percentage of teenage mothers EET*

| *As at March each year:* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2010* | *2011* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kent LA | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 22 | 15 | 22 | 29 | 25 |
| Medway LA | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | 26 | 20 | 31 | 28 | 32 |
| Kent and Medway | 24 | 10 | 17 | 23 | 16 | 23 | 29 | 26 |

[1] Data for 2002-04 available at Connexions Partnership level only.

## Nursery Schools

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many disadvantaged two-year olds will be eligible for free nursery care in *(a)* South Thanet constituency, *(b)* South East and *(c)* England. [89308]

**Sarah Teather:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in the Autumn Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, that the early education entitlement for two-year-olds will be expanded to around 260,000 children. The Government intend to take a phased approach to the implementation of the new entitlement. Around 20% of all two-year-olds will be eligible from September 2013. From 2014, the entitlement will be extended to around 40% of two-year-olds.

The Government have published indicative figures for how many children will be eligible in each local authority area in the first phase of the entitlement in 2013. These are available as part of the current Early Education and Childcare consultation, at the following link:

www.education.gov.uk/consultations

We estimate that around 136,400 two-year-olds in England, including 16,800 in the South East, and 3,300 in Kent will be eligible for the entitlement in 2013. Estimated numbers of eligible children are not available by parliamentary constituency.

We will publish further proposals in due course on eligibility criteria to reach 40% of two-year-olds from 2014.

## Pupils: Assessments

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on variations in examination results between different examination boards prior to the introduction of GCSEs. [88182]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department only holds summary statistics on the CSE (Certificate of Secondary Education) and GCE (General Certificate of Education) O-level examinations as published in the 'Statistics of Education' series. These are based on a sample of pupils and do not provide information which enables results from different examination boards to be compared.

## Schools: Sports

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in school sports partnerships on the level of participation in school sports. [89531]

**Tim Loughton:** We have made no recent assessment of this. Schools should provide competitive sport for all pupils as part of a rounded education. To ensure this is happening, we are refocusing the programme of study for National Curriculum physical education so that it is clear that all pupils should play competitive sport regularly throughout the year. It is for schools to decide how best to organise school sport, whether through partnerships of by other means. By creating the School Games, the

Government are also encouraging a range of sports to improve both the quality and quantity of sporting competitions on offer.

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the level of participation in triathlon events among school children. [89564]

**Tim Loughton:** We have not assessed participation in triathlon in schools in the last year and have not received any representations from expert bodies such as Ofsted or the Association for Physical Education about any significant change in participation levels. Triathlon is not a compulsory part of the National Curriculum and there are no plans to make it so. The PE and Sport Survey 2009-10 found that 5% of all schools provided triathlon for their pupils.

### Schools: Swimming

**John Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of changes in the level of participation in swimming in schools in the last year. [89532]

**Tim Loughton:** We have not assessed participation in swimming in schools in the last year and have not received any representations from expert bodies such as Ofsted, the Amateur Swimming Association or the Association for Physical Education about any significant change in participation levels. Swimming is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum for all primary pupils. The PE and Sport Survey 2009-10 found that 84% of all schools provided swimming for their pupils.

Swimming is one of the sports included in the new School Games which we are creating to encourage more competitive sport in schools.

### Social Services: Children

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of children in the care of social services in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Milton Keynes. [90006]

**Tim Loughton:** The number of looked after children in England as at 31 March 2011 was 65,520. The number of looked after children in Milton Keynes local authority as at 31 March 2011 was 270. This information is contained in the Statistical First Release (Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)—year ending 31 March 2011) which was published on 28 September 2011 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml

Information on the number of children looked after in each local authority for the years ending 31 March 2007 to 2011 is contained in table LAA1 and has been placed in the House Libraries. The information can also be accessed in the above Statistical First Release (via the Excel link "Local Authority summary tables") on the release's web page.

The Department is responsible for children who are looked after by local authorities in England, information on children who are looked after in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is collected by the devolved Administrations; however this is subject to different legislation and collected via different data systems.

### Special Educational Needs

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children aged two years have a statement of special educational needs. [88669]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department only holds special educational needs status, by age, for pupils in publically funded schools (including nursery schools). The majority of two-year-olds do not attend such institutions.

Within the institutions for which we do hold data, in January 2011 there were 257 pupils aged two (aged two as at 31 August 2010) with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) in schools[1] in England.

The latest available information on pupils with special educational needs is published as Statistical First Release 14/2011 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2011' at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001007/index.shtml

The Government are putting in place a range of measures to improve the early identification of SEN. An additional 4,200 health visitors are being recruited and trained so that early health and development reviews at age two are better able to pick up children's needs early; the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile is being revised to focus on three prime areas of development—communication and language; physical development; and social and emotional development; and an Early Language Development Programme is being put in place to help staff working with children to identify needs and provide appropriate support.

[1] Includes nursery schools, state-funded primary and secondary schools, special schools and pupil referral units. Excludes pupils in independent and general hospital schools.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* Centrepoint, *(b)* Crisis, *(c)* Skill Force and *(d)* Shelter in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90396]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* Based on the information available in the Department's finance system the funding to the named organisations in financial year 2010-11 is given in the following table, together with the spend to-date, as at 31 December 2011, for the financial year 2011-12.

£

| | *Funding in financial year 2010-11* | *Funding 2011-12* |
|---|---|---|
| Centrepoint | 0 | 0 |
| Crisis | 0 | 0 |
| SkillForce | 177,640 | 130,398 |
| Shelter | 0 | 0 |

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices: Day Care

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which professionals working in the child care sector are able to undertake apprenticeships under the Children's Care Learning and Development Apprenticeship Framework. [89452]

**Mr Hayes:** The Children's Care Learning and Development Apprenticeship Framework is currently available in Wales and covers the following job titles: Nursery Assistant, Cynorthwydd Cylch, Out-of-School Childcare Assistant, Playgroup Assistant, Crèche Assistant, Nursery Practitioner, Senior Nursery Practitioner/Room Leader, Child Minder, Centre Practitioner, and Crèche Leader/Practitioner.

In England the Children and Young Person's Workforce Apprenticeship Framework covers similar roles: Early Years Worker/Assistant, Care Worker/Assistant, Assistant Youth Support and Community Worker, Nursery Worker/Supervisor, Child Minder, Nursery Nurse/Nursery Teaching Assistant, Residential Care Worker, Foster Carer, and Short Break Carer.

Under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act, 2009, a person working for another in any of these roles is able to undertake an apprenticeship.

Full details about all apprenticeship frameworks including which professions they cover and any specific entry requirements can be found on the Apprenticeship Frameworks Online website:

http://www.afo.sscalliance.org/

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many registered child minders *(a)* enrolled on and *(b)* completed an apprenticeship in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [89453]

**Mr Hayes:** Information about the number of registered child minders that enrolled on or completed an apprenticeship is not available.

The following table shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts and apprenticeship programme achievements in the 'Children's Care Learning and Development' framework, between 2005/06 and 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available.

*Apprenticeship starts and achievements in the 'Children's Care Learning and Development' framework, 2005/06 to 2009/10*

| | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Starts | 12,330 | 13,210 | 15,260 | 17,250 | 20,110 |
| Achievements | 6,230 | 7,160 | 7,610 | 9,610 | 12,130 |

*Note*:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source*:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship framework starts and achievements is published in a supplementary table to the quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR):

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/Apprenticeship_sfr_supplementary_tables/

The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/

### Co-operatives

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to mark UN Year of the Co-operative 2012; and if he will make a statement. [88601]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) will work closely with Cabinet Office, the Mutuals Taskforce and with Co-operatives UK to develop and take full advantage of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of co-operative organisations during the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

The Mutuals Taskforce has recently indicated it will play a co-ordinating role for Departments to support the International Year of Co-operatives, with Co-operatives UK leading the Taskforce's work in this area.

### Coventry Gateway

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport on the Coventry Gateway project. [89804]

**Mr Prisk:** Senior officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Transport, and the Highways Agency (HA) met representatives of the promoters of the Coventry Gateway project and Coventry City Council. The potential interaction of the A45 Tollbar End improvement on the implementation of the Gateway project was discussed. It was agreed that the HA would have further detailed discussions with the promoters with the aim of ensuring that the two projects are compatible.

### EU Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which EU *(a)* Directives, *(b)* Regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89677]

**Mr Davey:** The information requested is not held centrally and is currently being researched. I will write to my hon. Friend as soon the information is available and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Fossil Fuels

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent support the Export Credits Guarantee Department has given to fossil fuel energy projects operated by Petrobras. [89318]

**Mr Davey:** Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) recently agreed to support a line of credit for US $1 billion to Petrobras to finance the export of supplies from UK based companies. Further details are contained in ECGD's Notice of Support, which was published on its website:

www.ecgd.gov.uk/news-and-events/news/petrobras-line-of-credit-announced

on 30 November 2011. No export contracts have yet been financed under the line of credit.

### Further Education: Finance

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to take steps to secure funding for any further education infrastructure projects that meet the criteria of phase two of the enhanced renewal grant fund but could not be funded from the fund. [89533]

**Mr Hayes:** Since May 2010, this Government have made £175 million available to support further education college capital investment. I will continue to work to secure the investment our colleges need in the future. In addition, I have asked officials in the Skills Funding Agency to continue to work with those colleges that met the criteria and quality thresholds for the phase two enhanced renewal grant fund but which could not be funded, to consider how their projects might be helped to proceed in the future.

I made a written ministerial statement on this matter on 12 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS.

### Further Education: Higher Education

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of courses leading to a *(a)* higher national diploma, *(b)* higher national certificate and *(c)* foundation degree were taught in further education colleges in academic year (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [88305]

**Mr Hayes:** The numbers and proportions of full person equivalents studying higher national diploma, higher national certificate and foundation degree courses at further education colleges and higher education institutions in England are shown in the following table. Figures have been provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 academic years. Information for the 2010/11 academic year is not available. More information on higher education in further education is available at this link to the HEFCE website:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/regions/profiles/

*Full person equivalents[1] studying higher national diploma (HND), higher national certificate (HNC) and foundation degree courses[2]. English higher education institutions (HEIs) and further education colleges (FECs), academic years 2008/09 and 2009/10*

| *Academic year* | | *HND* | | *HNC* | | *Foundation degree* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Type of provision* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 2008/09 | FEC taught and registered | 8,360 | 41.0 | 11,070 | 54.8 | 19,660 | 21.5 |
| | Franchised to FEC from HEI | 3,490 | 17.1 | 4,615 | 22.9 | 25,970 | 28.4 |
| | HEI taught and registered | 8,545 | 41.9 | 4,460 | 22.1 | 40,900 | 44.7 |
| | Taught at non-FEC/HEI provider | — | — | 35 | 0.2 | 4,995 | 5.5 |
| | Total | 20,400 | 100.0 | 20,185 | 100.0 | 91,525 | 100.0 |
| 2009/10 | FEC taught and registered | 7,820 | 41.9 | 10,390 | 59.2 | 23,475 | 22.1 |
| | Franchised to FEC from HEI | 3,115 | 16.7 | 3,775 | 21.5 | 29,470 | 27.8 |
| | HEI taught and registered | 7,705 | 41.3 | 3,370 | 19.2 | 46,550 | 43.9 |
| | Taught at non-FEC/HEI provider | 20 | 0.1 | 20 | 0.1 | 6,615 | 6.2 |
| | Total | 18,655 | 100.0 | 17,555 | 100.0 | 106,110 | 100.0 |

[1] In order to accurately measure higher education provision where students are taught at more than one institution or are studying more than one subject, head-counts are split across the institutions/subjects involved in proportion to the activity in each—this results in counts of full person equivalents. This gives a more accurate measure than direct head-counts, where the student would have to be arbitrarily assigned to one of the teaching institutions and/or one of the subjects.

[2] Covers students of all ages and domiciles on full-time and part-time courses.

*Note*:

Numbers in this table are on a full person equivalent basis and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals. Percentages are based on unrounded numbers and given to one decimal place.

*Source*:

HEFCE analysis of the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and Skills Funding Agency Individualised Learning Record F05

### Overseas Investment

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in which countries UK Trade and Investment has secured most UK investment in the latest period for which figures are available; and from which countries UKTI has secured the most investment in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [90464]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) does not keep consolidated figures of investments by UK companies overseas, although UKTI trade services can be used to support UK companies planning to invest, or investing, overseas. This can include circumstances in which companies are moving some jobs and operations offshore in order to make their UK business more competitive.

On securing investment in the UK, UKTI has been involved in the following, in 2010/11, in the top five countries:

| | *Number of projects* | *Number of new jobs* | *Number of safeguarded jobs* | *Total number of jobs* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| USA | 199 | 4,209 | 17,559 | 21,768 |
| Japan | 87 | 1,739 | 1,362 | 3,101 |
| India | 71 | 1,707 | 739 | 2,446 |
| Canada | 54 | 844 | 488 | 1,332 |
| China | 43 | 928 | 452 | 1,380 |
| Total | 454 | 9,427 | 20,600 | 30,027 |

*Source:*
UKTI database

### Public Sector: Private Sector

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans UK Trade & Investment has for future use of private sector delivery contracts. [90178]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) has an ambitious target to double its client base to 50,000 over the next four years. The continued development and expansion of outsourcing services to private sector deliverers will play a key role in achieving this target. UKTI's trade services in the English regions have been outsourced for a number of years, and its inward investment delivery operations were outsourced in 2011, to PA Consulting, on an incentivised basis with rewards linked to performance. UKTI proposes to adopt this approach for new trade service delivery contracts. Overseas, UKTI currently delivers the bulk of its services to UK companies in China through the private sector, and is looking at further options for overseas delivery through the private sector.

### Trade Fairs

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish UK Trade & Investment's Tradeshow Access Programme for 2012. [90176]

**Mr Prisk:** The Tradeshow Access programme for 2012/13 is available on UK Trade & Investment's website. The programme calendar can be found at:

www.ukti.gov.uk/tap

### Trade Promotion

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how he plans to assess the effectiveness of the High Value Opportunities scheme. [90177]

**Mr Prisk:** The High Value Opportunities programme is assessed through the following targets:

1. Support for a minimum of 400 UK businesses per year, at least 300 of which should be small and medium-sized enterprises.

2. At least 70% of businesses helped to access High Value Opportunities to report that UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) had significant favourable influence; as measured through the UKTI Performance and impact measurement system (PIMS).

3. To support UK businesses to win overseas contracts as follows:

| | *£ billion* |
|---|---|
| 2011/12 | 1.5 |
| 2012/13 | 3.0 |
| 2013/14 | 4.0 |
| 2014/15 | 4.5 |

4. There will also be a third party evaluation of the programme.

### UK Trade & Investment

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish UK Trade & Investment's proposed programme of sectorally-focused overseas missions. [90229]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade & Investment is currently finalising its overseas missions programme for 2012-13 and will publish the details in due course.

### UK Trade & Investment: Finance

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has allocated to UKTI in each year from 2010 to 2015. [89309]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is a joint department of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). UKTI draws on its parent Departments for some business support functions on a shared service basis. This includes accommodation and aspects of Finance, HR and related IT support systems.

The following table sets out the funding BIS has allocated to UKTI in each year from 2010 to 2015.

| | | | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* |
| Admin allocation | 40.0 | 39.3 | 38.0 | 36.5 | 32.7 |
| Estimate of overhead allocation charge for accommodation, IT etc | 12.0 | 11.0 | 10.0 | 8.0 | 7.0 |
| Programme allocation[1] | — | — | 8.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| Total | 52.0 | 50.3 | 56.0 | 50.5 | 45.7 |

[1] Announced in the autumn statement Cm 8231.

### UK Trade & Investment: Manpower

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff UK Trade & Investment employed in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and how many such staff it will employ in (i) 2012 and (ii) 2013. [88632]

**Mr Prisk:** UKTI is not an employer in its own right; for the majority of its human resource requirements it draws on civil service staff employed by one or other of its two parent Departments, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and staff from its private sector contractors.

The number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) working on behalf of UKTI for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is as follows, along with estimates for 2011-12 and 2012-13. Further detail is available from our annual reports available at:

2009-10—2,350

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/aboutukti/item/114708.html

2010-11—2,270

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/aboutukti/item/171020.html

2011-12—2,403 estimate

2012-13—2,528 estimate

In 2011-12 and 2012-13, UKTI is committed to meeting the reductions set out under its spending review 2010 settlement. These focus on reducing administrative staff in London, funded by BIS. The Autumn Statement (Cm 8231) provided additional resources from 2012-13 to increase private sector front-line delivery, with the aim being to double the number of companies helped to export.

As a result, we expect there to be a net increase in the number of FTEs employed by our private-sector delivery partners over this two year period, of 133 FTEs in 2011-12 and a further 125 FTEs in 2012-13.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### EU Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities which EU *(a)* directives, *(b)* regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting the Government Equalities Office require transposition into UK law; and what estimate she has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89703]

**Lynne Featherstone:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Minister for Immigration, the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green), on 17 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 659-60W, to PQ 89673.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 19 January 2012*

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Christmas

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91110]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not keep central records of the amount spent on Christmas trees or other Christmas decorations. The CPS is a devolved organisation—with offices throughout England and Wales—and budgetary responsibility is given to local managers. To obtain the requested information would incur a disproportionate cost.

The remaining Law Officers' Departments did not spend any money on Christmas trees or decorations in 2011.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Attorney-General how many cases of data loss or breaches of confidentiality occurred in his Department in 2011. [90687]

**The Solicitor-General:** No data losses or breaches of confidentiality were recorded by the Attorney-General's Office in 2011.

### Prosecutions: Costs

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Attorney-General what the average cost to the Crown Prosecution Service is of each prosecution by offence type. [90791]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service does not allocate or record prosecution costs by offence type. These data could not be reasonably obtained locally or nationally without incurring a disproportionate cost.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### The Lord's Prayer

2. **Dr Thérèse Coffey:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what assessment the Church Commissioners have made of the teaching of the Lord's Prayer in schools in England. [90484]

**Tony Baldry:** The Church of England only has information pertaining to its Church of England schools. There are around 4,700 of these schools and academies across the country, spanning both the primary and secondary sectors.

These schools are assessed on a regular basis by Ofsted and the local diocese. From the denominational inspection reports it is clear that the Lord's Prayer is in regular use in collective worship in the majority of Church of England schools.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Official Hospitality

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by third parties. [84198]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Dudley North (Ian Austin) on 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 776W, on the cost of hospitality for ministerial events. There have been no additional events or receptions hosted by Ministers since this list was published.

My Department has a series of meeting rooms that are used every day for events with external organisations, such as briefings for representatives of local government, the housing sector and the fire and rescue service.

Details of non-ministerial events are held by individual business units, and to compile a list would incur disproportionate cost.

### Mayors: Coventry

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had recent discussions with Coventry city council on the costs of (i) organising and (ii) conducting the forthcoming referendum on directly-elected mayors. [90563]

**Greg Clark:** I wrote to Coventry city council Cabinet Member, Councillor Phil Townshend, in August 2011 clearly stating that the costs of the referendum would not fall on the council, but would be met by central Government. I also recently wrote to the Council Leader, Councillor John Mutton, repeating that point.

This reflects commitments made to Parliament by Ministers, on 23 June 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 1470-71, and is in line with the long-established New Burdens doctrine.

My officials have also had discussions with officials at the council on these matters.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Departmental Manpower

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department are solely responsible for Overseas Territory affairs; and what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* specific responsibilities are of each such official. [91035]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department has no officials solely responsible for Overseas Territory affairs.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of full-time equivalent staff in his Department engaged in delivering *(a)* frontline and *(b)* corporate or back office services; and if he will make a statement. [91087]

**Gregory Barker:** As of 31 December 2011, the total number of civil servants working in the Department of Energy and Climate Change was 1,226 full-time equivalents. Of those, 164 were involved in providing corporate service support which includes Finance, Legal, Human Resource and Directorate Support. The remaining 1,062 people were involved in delivering DECC's key business objectives.

## Energy: Prices

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the likely change in the cost of energy generated from *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity over the next 10 years. [89304]

**Charles Hendry:** As part of its annual emissions and energy projections DECC publishes different scenarios on wholesale and retail energy prices. The scenarios are based on a number of assumptions described in detail in DECC Updated Energy and Emissions Projections publication 2011 available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/en_emis_projs/en_emis_projs.aspx

The following table summarises the wholesale and retail gas and electricity prices that are part of the central scenario. This incorporates the price impacts of policies that had been agreed at the time of publication, for a detailed list see Table 4.1 in the full report. However, this does not include additional policies to meet the 4th carbon budget that were or are still under development.

*Energy prices, central scenario (constant 2010 price base)*

| | *Wholesale prices* | | *Retail[1] electricity prices* | | | *Retail[1] gas prices* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Electricity (p/KWh)[2]* | *Gas (p/Therm)* | *Residential (p/KWh)* | *Services (p/KWh)* | *Industrial (p/KWh)* | *Residential (p/KWh)* | *Services (p/KWh)* | *Industrial (p/KWh)* |
| 2010 | 4.8 | 42.7 | 12.9 | 7.7 | 6.8 | 4.2 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| 2011 | 7.0 | 61.2 | 14.4 | 12.1 | 11.5 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 2.7 |
| 2012 | 7.3 | 67.0 | 15.4 | 12.7 | 12.1 | 4.6 | 3.4 | 2.9 |
| 2013 | 7.8 | 71.8 | 16.2 | 13.6 | 13.0 | 4.8 | 3.6 | 3.1 |
| 2014 | 7.6 | 77.7 | 16.7 | 13.7 | 13.2 | 5.2 | 3.9 | 3.4 |
| 2015 | 7.6 | 78.6 | 16.9 | 13.7 | 13.1 | 5.3 | 3.9 | 3.4 |
| 2016 | 7.7 | 78.6 | 17.5 | 13.9 | 13.4 | 5.4 | 4.0 | 3.4 |
| 2017 | 7.7 | 73.8 | 17.8 | 14.1 | 13.5 | 5.3 | 3.8 | 3.3 |
| 2018 | 7.4 | 68.0 | 17.5 | 14.0 | 13.4 | 5.0 | 3.6 | 3.1 |
| 2019 | 7.4 | 68.0 | 18.0 | 14.3 | 13.7 | 5.0 | 3.6 | 3.1 |
| 2020 | 7.6 | 68.0 | 18.7 | 14.8 | 14.2 | 5.1 | 3.6 | 3.1 |
| 2021 | 8.0 | 68.0 | 19.3 | 15.4 | 14.8 | 5.1 | 3.7 | 3.2 |
| 2022 | 8.2 | 68.0 | 19.6 | 15.6 | 15.0 | 5.1 | 3.7 | 3.2 |

[1] Retail price projections are based on projected taxes, duties and policy cost recovery and averaged historical non-fuel markups.

[2] Electricity prices based on stated wholesale fossil fuel prices and central growth projection. Projected carbon price is fossil fuel price consistent.

*Source:*

DECC updated energy and emissions projections, October 2011, annex F

## EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of the regulations his Department brought into force through *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* other means originated from proposals by the European Commission in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [88968]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) did not implement any EU law through primary legislation in 2010 or 2011. DECC also did not implement any EU law through other means than legislation in that period.

In 2010, six statutory instruments implementing EU law were brought into force by DECC. They are:

The Energy Act 2008 (Consequential Modifications) (Offshore Environmental Protection) Order 2010/1513

The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2010/1996

The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Licensing etc.) Regulations 2010/2221

The Justification Decision (Generation of Electricity by the EPR Nuclear Reactor) Regulations 2010/2844

The Justification Decision (Generation of Electricity by the AP1000 Nuclear Reactor) Regulations 2010/2845

The Electricity (Guarantees of Origin of Electricity Produced from Renewable Energy Sources) (Amendment) Regulations 2010/2715

In 2011, 11 statutory instruments implementing EU law were brought into force by DECC. They are:

The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2011/984

The Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources Regulations 2011/243

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (Fees) and National Emissions Inventory Regulations 2011/727

The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2011/765

The, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Nitrous Oxide) Regulations 2011/1506

The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Termination of Licences) Regulations 2011/1483

The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Access to Infrastructure) Regulations 2011/2305

The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Amendment of the Energy Act 2008 etc.) Regulations 2011/2453

Electricity and Gas (Internal Markets) Regulations 2011/2704

The Gas Transporter (Modification of Licence Conditions) Regulations 2011/2803

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011/2043

All legislation which came into force during 2010 and 2011 can be found at:

www.legislation.gov.uk

### Heating: Disability

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what non-means-tested assistance he plans to provide to people with disabilities towards their heating costs. [90683]

**Gregory Barker:** All households in Great Britain are eligible to receive support for energy efficiency measures, which can help reduce energy costs, through the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), with people in receipt of disability living allowance eligible for assistance through a Priority Group. In addition, all those living in communities eligible for the Community Energy Saving Programme stand to benefit from energy efficiency measures.

Additional help is available through the Warm Front scheme and warm home discount for people on low incomes who have disabilities, alongside those on low incomes who are either pensioners or families with children.

Information about current local offers, as well as free expert advice on how to save energy in the home, is available to all through the free Energy Saving Trust advice line (0800 512 012).

In the future, all households will stand to benefit from energy efficiency improvements at no upfront cost through the Green Deal, with extra support through the Energy Company Obligation for vulnerable households on low incomes and those in properties that are difficult to improve.

### National Grid: Fees and Charges

**Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been collected in national grid transmission charges from generators in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales in the last year. [89418]

**Charles Hendry:** National Grid collects two sets of transmission charges from generators:

1. Transmission Network Use of System (TNUoS) charges meet the capital costs of building and maintaining the network and include a locational element. According to National Grid, the generator shares for the 2010-11 charging year were:

England: £216.39 million

Scotland: £146.09 million

Wales: £39.49 million.

2. Balancing Services Use of System (BSUoS) charges meet the operational costs of the network and are paid on a socialised basis. The generator share amounts to approximately £450 million per year. Figures giving an accurate geographic breakdown of BSUoS charges on generators are not available.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### EU Law

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if she will make a statement. [90698]

**Damian Green:** The Home Office does not hold information regarding implementation of EU regulations in France or Germany. It is the responsibility of the European Commission to oversee the implementation of EU law by the member states.

### Immigration Controls: Airports

**Jack Dromey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the remit given to the Independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency to investigate arrangements for immigration controls at UK airports during the pilot project of summer 2011 will include establishing *(a)* whether the suspension of some aspects of identity checks was directed at passengers of particular nationalities and if so which nationalities and *(b)* what consideration was given to any duty to apply immigration controls impartially and to avoid discrimination based on grounds of ethnicity or nationality. [89188]

**Damian Green:** The terms of reference for the Independent Chief Inspector's investigation have been placed in the House Library.

### Institute for Public Policy Research: Finance

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department *(a)* allocated and *(b)* disbursed to the (i) Institute for Public Policy Research and (ii) National Institute for Economic and Social Research in each of the last three financial years; and what the purpose was of such funding. [90210]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 17 January 2012]:* The Home Department has made the following payments to the Institute for Public Policy Research and National Institute for Economic and Social Research:

| *Institute* | *Financial year* | *Amount (£)* | *Description/ purpose* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Institute for Public Policy Research | 2009-10 | 15,000 | Policy development |
| National Institute for Economic and Social Research | 2009-10 | 58,000 | Research |
| National Institute for Economic and Social Research | 2010-11 | 24,000 | Research |

### John Davidson

**Ben Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will direct the Independent Police Complaints Commission to publish all documents in its possession relating to its investigation of Detective Constable John Davidson of the Metropolitan police; [89885]

(2) what her policy is on the full disclosure of documents relating to the conduct of Detective Constable John Davidson of the Metropolitan police during the investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. [90306]

**Nick Herbert:** Publication of documents relating to these investigations is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission and the Metropolitan Police Service.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 28 November 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Tayyibah Ahmed. [90270]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

I replied on 10 January.

### Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse of running the Morton Hall immigration removal centre was in the latest period in which figures are available. [89760]

**Damian Green:** Morton Hall is in its first year of operation as an immigration removal centre since it was previously used as a female prison under the Ministry of Justice.

The estimated cost to the public purse in the financial year 2011-12 is the £10,680,000 which the UK Border Agency will pay to the National Offender Management Service under the service level agreement for the running of Morton Hall immigration removal centre. The UK Border Agency will also pay £491,244 to the National Offender Management Service in 2011-12 for the start-up costs.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Food Procurement

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what assessment the House of Commons Commission has made of the availability of fresh food and food made from fresh ingredients in *(a)* the Jubilee Café and *(b)* all food outlets on the parliamentary estate. [89285]

**John Thurso:** Formal assessments of the availability of fresh food are not carried out, but the House of Commons catering service is committed to preparing homemade foods from fresh ingredients wherever possible. Seasonality is a major factor in menu design and the catering service works closely with its suppliers to secure delivery of prime products.

Food provision in the Jubilee Cafe is constrained by the lack of kitchen facilities, but salads, sandwiches and fresh fruits are bought in daily to provide healthier alternatives to the range of cakes and other snacks served.

We estimate that over 90% of main meal dishes served in all other food outlets are prepared from fresh ingredients, with the principal exception being the use of frozen fish in some venues. Similarly, some frozen vegetables are served in the cafeterias.

### Parliamentary Tours: Finance

**Robert Flello:** To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much was paid to guides providing tours of Parliament in September in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011; and how much income was earned from guided tours in the same period. [90358]

**John Thurso:** Visitor services are a shared service between the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The figures here relate to gross costs and revenue of which the House of Commons is apportioned 70% and the House of Lords 30%.

Commercial tours operate Monday to Saturday during the summer when the House is not sitting. In the two weeks of September 2010 and 2011 when the House sat, there were no tours from Monday to Friday, but tours ran on Saturday. Blue Badge guides are provided under contract for paid tours.

*Gross revenue and guide costs, commercial opening, September 2009, 2010 and 2011 (excluding VAT)*

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *Ticket revenue* | *Guide costs* |
| 2009 | 318,312 | 156,863 |
| 2010 | 189,735 | 89,270 |
| 2011 | 247,433 | 93,041 |

During September, Member-sponsored line of route tours are available, and the amount paid to guides for these tours is shown in the following table. These tours are not covered by Blue Badge guides or the related contract. The table does not include evening tours related to banqueting functions.

*Gross estimated Member-sponsored line of route tour guide costs, September 2009, 2010 and 2011*

| | *Members' tour guide costs (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009 | 14,299 |
| 2010 | 14,985 |
| 2011 | 12,790 |

The figures in this answer do not include the additional costs incurred for ticket administration by Ticketmaster, promotion and advertising and the administration costs covered by Visitor Services.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Languages

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on developing and enhancing Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture; [90658]

(2) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Northern Ireland Executive Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure and *(b)* other Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive on the introduction of an Irish Language Act for Northern Ireland. [90681]

**Mr Paterson:** I met the Northern Ireland Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure on 15 December and we discussed a number of issues relating to Irish and Ulster-Scots. The Minister of State for Northern Ireland has also met the Northern Ireland Culture Minister in recent months to discuss areas of mutual interest.

Policy relating to regional and minority languages in Northern Ireland, including the introduction of an Irish Language Act and the development of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture are, in the main, devolved matters for the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive.

## SCOTLAND

### Biofuels

**Mrs McGuire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Government, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and *(c)* the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the recommendations in the report commissioned by the Forestry Commission Scotland and the Scottish Government on supporting biomass electricity in the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) and on the effect of these recommendations on Government policy. [90258]

**David Mundell:** The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I are in regular contact with the Scottish Government and ministerial colleagues in the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on a range of issues including renewable energy.

Officials at DECC are considering responses to the recently closed consultation on the renewables obligation (RO) and relevant information, including the biomass electricity report prepared for Scotland and cross-Government work, to develop a UK bioenergy strategy which will set out a strategic framework for the use of bioenergy across the UK.

## TRANSPORT

### Airbus A380

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will hold discussions with the Civil Aviation Authority on the airworthiness of the wings of the Airbus A380; [90183]

(2) if she will meet the Civil Aviation Authority to discuss the airworthiness of the Airbus A380. [90185]

**Mrs Villiers:** Responsibility for the design approval of the Airbus A380 and its continued airworthiness rests with the European Aviation Safety Agency. The agency is currently investigating the cause of minor cracks in some A380 wings.

### Internships

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidelines her Department issues to its non-departmental public bodies on the employment of unpaid interns. [89395]

**Norman Baker:** No guidelines are issued by the Department to non-departmental public bodies.

### Driving Tests

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans she has to involve existing Driving Standards Agency partners in the delivery of practical driving tests; [90665]

(2) what consideration her Department has given to the offer of Pearson VUE to assume operational responsibility for the management and financial risks of the Driving Standards Agency's training and testing initiatives; [90666]

(3) what interest has been expressed by outside organisations in assuming operational responsibility for the management of the Driving Standards Agency's training and testing initiatives. [90667]

**Mike Penning:** The Department for Transport is considering how the principles set out in the Open Public Services White Paper apply to our services, including those delivered by the Driving Standards Agency. These considerations are at an early stage, and we are in discussion with existing partners, potential new partners, and trade unions, who have all expressed an interest. A full and open consultation process would be undertaken if any firm proposals were forthcoming.

### High Speed 2 Railway Line

**Chris White:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings Ministers in her Department had on alternatives to High Speed 2 in each of the last two years. [87872]

**Justine Greening:** DFT Ministers have discussed the Government's proposals for high speed rail and the alternatives that were considered (as set out in the consultation document "High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future") at a range of meetings and events.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 23-59, on High Speed Rail, what assessment she has made of the economic *(a)* benefits and *(b)* costs to the North East economy of the (i) construction and (ii) operation of High Speed 2. [89891]

**Justine Greening** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* HS2 will deliver around £2 of benefits for every £1 spent, and up to £59 billion worth of benefits overall. Table 5 of the updated Economic Case for HS2 published this month provides a breakdown of benefits accrued in different regions based on where people start their trips, including the North East. These figures are based on transport user benefits only, and do not include the potential agglomeration benefits of the Y network. The updated Economic Case can be found at:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/hs2-economic-case-appraisal-update/hs2-economic-case-appraisal-update.pdf

The cost of constructing the Y network would be £32.7 billion, which includes a significant level of optimism bias and risk provision. There is no regional breakdown of this total cost.

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons her Department did not carry out a consultation on the future of the high speed rail network before deciding on the phase one objectives contained in its remit to HS2 Ltd. [88912]

**Justine Greening:** My decisions on a new high speed rail network, which I announced on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 9-12WS, were made following a national public consultation exercise which ran for five months in 2011. This consultation covered both the Government's strategy for a high speed rail network and the proposed route for the first phase of the network from London to the west midlands.

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evidence her Department took account of to inform its choice of a Y-shaped core network for High Speed 2. [88914]

**Justine Greening:** The Department looked at a range of information and evidence which has been published in a number of detailed reports that can be found on the Department's website, at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/high-speed-rail/

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons her Department excluded Leicester on the proposed eastern route of High Speed 2. [88915]

**Justine Greening:** HS2 Ltd will deliver its advice to me in March this year on the route and station options for phase 2 of the Y network (linking Birmingham with Manchester and Leeds, with intermediate stations in the east midlands and South Yorkshire). This will include analysis of the options for an east midlands station.

My Department will begin informal consultation on a preferred route for phase 2 later in the year.

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cost benefit analysis her Department has undertaken in respect of the *(a)* potential reduction in journey times between London and Birmingham and *(b)* environmental effects on the Chilterns area arising from the development of High Speed 2. [88917]

**Justine Greening:** Time savings for phase 1 between London and Birmingham have been valued by HS2 Ltd at £10 billion (in 2011 present values, appraised over a 60 year period), with time saving benefits for the Y-network estimated at £24.5 billion.

The Economic Case for HS2 analysed all environmental impacts associated with phase 1. The Department's standard approach was used to appraise the route between London and Birmingham, and therefore the analysis incorporated the Chilterns area.

## High Speed 2 Railway Line: Civil Servants

**Chris White:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in her Department are working on the High Speed 2 project. [87875]

**Justine Greening:** There are currently 20 officials working full-time on high speed rail with additional input from a number of other officials within the Department.

**Chris White:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hours civil servants in her Department have spent on the High Speed 2 project in each of the last three years. [87876]

**Justine Greening:** Officials working full-time on high speed rail spent approximately 1,500 hours working on HS2 in 2009, approximately 4,600 hours in 2010 and approximately 27,000 hours in 2011. The large number of hours worked in 2011 included a substantial amount of time engaging with stakeholders and the public during the five month consultation.

## High Speed 2 Railway Line: Employment

**Chris White:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of the number of jobs High Speed 2 is expected to create in *(a)* Warwick and Leamington constituency and *(b)* Warwickshire. [87873]

**Justine Greening:** HS2 Ltd estimate that around 9,000 jobs would be created to construct the new London-West Midlands route, with a further 1,500 permanent jobs in operations and maintenance and over 30,000 jobs in the regeneration areas associated with station developments. These figures would be significantly higher for the proposed 'Y' shaped high speed rail network which includes links to the North East and North West.

Although employment benefits have not been broken down to a regional level, new high speed rail lines could provide business opportunities for firms throughout the UK.

## High Speed Trains: Scotland

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she next plans to meet the Scottish Government to discuss high speed rail. [88143]

**Justine Greening:** The Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), and I have recently met representatives of the Scottish Government and discussed high speed rail.

I intend to hold further discussions in due course.

**Cathy Jamieson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Scottish Government on the effects of plans for high speed rail on the operation of freight services in Scotland. [88144]

**Justine Greening:** While there have been no specific discussions about the impact of HS2 on freight services in Scotland, the released capacity that HS2 will result in on the West Coast Main Line will create potential for increased freight services to and from Scotland. The Government will work with the Scottish Government going forward to ensure that freight and HS2 work in tandem to provide maximum benefit to the UK.

## Midland Main Line: Electrification

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider proposals for the electrification of the Midland Main Line. [88567]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 10 January 2012]:* The Government support progressive electrification of the rail network in England and Wales as a way of reducing the cost of running the railways, increasing efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. We will continue to work with Network Rail to look at the case for further electrification, including of the Midland Main Line, in the next rail Control Period starting in 2014.

## Motorways

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency undertakes on the proposed name of new motorway service areas. [90618]

**Mike Penning:** Since 1992 responsibility for the promotion, development and operation of new motorway service areas has rested with the private sector. Consequently, neither the Department for Transport nor the Highways Agency has any input in to the naming of sites.

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency undertook with (i) the relevant local authority and (ii) relevant local people on the proposed name for the motorway service area under construction between junctions 9 and 10 of the M25. [90680]

**Mike Penning:** The new motorway service area between junctions 9 and 10 of the M25 near to Cobham is a privately funded development being carried out by Evergreen Extra Ltd. The Department for Transport, and the Highways Agency, has no input into the naming of the site.

## Railways: Scotland

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on whether the proposed high speed line to Scotland should be on the west or east side of the Pennines. [88913]

**Justine Greening:** As I announced to the House on 10 January 2012, *Official Report*, columns 9-12WS, the Government's proposals are for a Y network from London to Leeds and Manchester via the west midlands. I will receive advice from HS2 Ltd on route and station options for the Leeds and Manchester legs in March.

I look forward to working with the Scottish Government and others to identify and evaluate options for developing the high speed network and further reducing journey times.

## Railways: Metal Theft

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many incidents there have been of theft of metal from railway lines in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Vale of Glamorgan constituency in each of the last three years;

(2) what the value of metal stolen from railway lines was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Vale of Glamorgan constituency in each of the last three years. [90625] [90626]

**Norman Baker:** The information is not available in the format requested. Details of the number and costs of incidents of cable theft which result in delays to the operational network are collected by Network Rail on a route basis.

*Network Rail cable theft statistics—route and national 2008-09 to date*

*Network Rail breakdown by route 2010-11*

| *Route* | *Number of incidents* | *Delay minutes*[1] | *Compensation cost*[2] *(£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anglia | 74 | 21,055 | 1,089,809 |
| CTRL | 1 | 31 | 7,251 |
| East Midlands | 33 | 11,234 | 282, 473 |
| Kent | 17 | 12,681 | 417,950 |
| LNE (London North Eastern) | 526 | 137,801 | 3,531,416 |
| LNW (London North Western) | 196 | 105,842 | 2,795,811 |
| Scotland | 34 | 7,265 | 254, 825 |
| Sussex | 3 | 764 | 30, 081 |
| Wessex | 8 | 3,536 | 140,423 |
| Western | 103 | 65,026 | 3,587, 181 |

*Breakdown by route 2009-10*

| *Route* | *Number of incidents* | *Delay minutes*[1] | *Compensation cost*[2] *(£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anglia | 79 | 40,632 | 2,643,979 |
| CTRL | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 27 | 6,386 | 155,750 |
| Kent | 10 | 3,331 | 82,849 |
| LNE (London North Eastern) | 327 | 102,680 | 2,630,249 |
| LNW (London North Western) | 166 | 125,089 | 3,085,507 |
| Scotland | 2 | 142 | 13,974 |
| Sussex | 1 | 748 | 41,876 |
| Wessex | 3 | 71 | 1,738 |
| Western | 41 | 42, 491 | 2,275,430 |

*Breakdown by route 2008-09*

| *Route* | *Number of incidents* | *Delay minutes*[1] | *Compensation cost*[2] *(£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anglia | 26 | 12,253 | 720,251 |
| CTRL | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 22 | 6,532 | 215,439 |
| Kent | 23 | 5,570 | 148,591 |
| LNE (London North Eastern) | 489 | 167,509 | 4,725,454 |
| LNW (London North Western) | 136 | 71,548 | 1,361,966 |
| Scotland | 10 | 4,396 | 212,450 |
| Sussex | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wessex | 1 | 12 | 163 |
| Western | 35 | 15,347 | 474,203 |

*National*

| *Financial year* | *Number of incidents*[4] | *Delay minutes*[1] | *Compensation cost*[2] *(£)* | *Total cost*[3] *(£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2011-12[5] | 464 | 166,353 | 5,877,347 | n/a |

| *Financial year* | *Number of incidents*[4] | *National Delay minutes*[1] | *Compensation cost*[2] *(£)* | *Total cost*[3] *(£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2010-11 | 995 | 365,265 | 12,137,220 | 16,510,663 |
| 2009-10 | 656 | 321,570 | 10,931,350 | 13,961,998 |
| 2008-09 | 742 | 283,167 | 7,858,516 | 12,264,682 |
| Total | 2,393 | 970,002 | 30,927,086 | 42,737,343 |

[1] Delay minutes provide an indication of the scale of inconvenience experienced by passengers and vary with each incident. If the theft is on a busy mainline then they rack up much more quickly than on quieter suburban lines.

[2] Compensation costs (known as schedule 8 costs) are paid to train and freight operators for the disruption caused by the delay. This is a substantial part of the cost to the industry of cable theft but does not include the cost of staff time to repair and replace the cable, replacement cable itself and the cost of mitigation measures such as security patrols and investment in new technology. The amount of compensation paid depends on the type of services delayed.

[3] Total cost comprises schedule 8 (compensation to train operators), as well as the average cost of replacement cable; average maintenance cost of attending to the fault and average opportunity cost of diverting this labour from elsewhere. This figure is available only as a national figure as it is an estimation based on averages.

[4] Number of incidents which caused delay to the operational network. It does not include thefts from depots, engineering sites or redundant cable.

[5] Year to date—to end of period 5.

| | *Hours delay* |
|---|---|
| 2011-12[1] | 2,772 |
| 2010-11 | 6,088 |
| 2009-10 | 5,360 |
| 2008-09 | 4,719 |

[1] Year to date—to end of period 5.

Details of the total number of cable theft crimes, including thefts from depots, engineering sites and depots are collated by British Transport Police for 2010-11.

| *Crime area name* | *Number of crimes (live and redundant cable)* | *Arrests* |
|---|---|---|
| London North | 321 | 112 |
| London South | 391 | 94 |
| London Underground | 123 | 77 |
| North Eastern | 1,184 | 273 |
| North Western | 273 | 109 |
| Wales and Western | 632 | 218 |
| Scottish | 192 | 31 |
| Total | 3,116 | 914 |

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Income Support: Lone Parents

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to revise his estimate that 20,000 to 25,000 lone parents will move into employment when entitlement to income support for lone parents with a youngest child aged five ends in light of the most recent data on unemployment, part time vacancies and economic growth; and if he will make a statement. [90783]

**Maria Miller:** The June 2010 Budget announced the requirement for lone parents to prepare for and seek work as a condition of receiving benefits, would be extended from those with a youngest child aged seven or over, to those with a youngest child aged five or over.

We estimated in the recent impact assessment, 'Conditionality Measures in the 2011 Welfare Reform Bill' that the change will help 20,000 to 25,000 extra lone parents into work in steady state, once the full impact of the proposal has been realised. This estimate is based on evidence on the difference in work entry rates between lone parents claiming income support and lone parents claiming, notably, jobseeker's allowance, where the changes can be assumed to arise directly from the change in conditionality regime. We have already included an element of caution in our estimates, as we recognise lone parents have some different characteristics to other groups on JSA.

Despite the economic downturn, there are still a large number of unfilled vacancies available, with an average of 463,000 vacancies a month in the final quarter of 2011. This snapshot does not show the dynamism of a job market in which most vacancies are filled quickly and new ones are coming up for people to move into. Jobcentre Plus alone takes an average of 10,000 new vacancies each day, and many more come up through other recruitment channels.

We expect the UK to achieve economic growth in the near future, with the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasting increasing economic growth between 2012 and 2016 in their latest 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook' publication in November 2011.

Given these factors, we believe the proposal will achieve an employment impact of 20,000 to 25,000 at steady-state, and as such, we do not plan to revise our estimates.

### Universal Credit

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what role he expects housing benefit staff in local authorities to play in delivering universal credit. [90781]

**Chris Grayling:** The Welfare Reform White Paper sets out that the Department for Work and Pensions will be responsible for organising the delivery of Universal Credit. It also states that we will continue to pay housing benefit to working age customers until we can migrate them successfully on to universal credit, currently expected to be by October 2017. We have yet to settle on the precise details of how the transition will work, and the effects on housing benefits staff. However, this orderly transition will ensure that we have people with relevant skills and experience to support claimants both in work and out of work, as they migrate to the new credit.

We have formed a transition working group made up of representatives from local authorities to advise the programme of the impacts of universal credit on local authorities and we are undertaking an extensive programme of visits to individual authorities to hear about current practice, gather views and suggestions and discuss their views about the future role of local authorities under universal credit. We will continue to work with these colleagues to test new ways of working and consider how, in the longer term, we can build on the best capabilities of current organisations to provide a consistently excellent service to claimants and ensure value for money.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the sum he has budgeted for universal credit implementation he expects to pay to local authorities. [90782]

**Chris Grayling:** The 2010 spending review settlement included funding of £2 billion for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15, to meet all the costs of introducing universal credit.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is working with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the devolved Administrations and the local authority associations to understand the full cost impact of the introduction of universal credit.

The full impact will only be understood when the universal credit service design and migration process is finalised.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the criteria are for employers to be able to receive Government funds to take on apprentices; and how many employers in each region have taken part in the scheme to date. [90194]

**Mr Hayes:** The National Apprenticeship Service channels the funding to the organisation which delivers the apprenticeship training. In most cases this will be the training provider rather than an employer. Therefore to receive apprenticeship funds directly, an employer must deliver the relevant training. We have recently announced an Employer Ownership Pilot which will route up to £250 million of public investment directly to employers over the next two years. We will shortly be issuing a prospectus jointly with the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) inviting proposals from employers.

In November last year, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education also announced the establishment of a new scheme which will provide up to 40,000 incentives for small employers, who are not currently engaged in the apprenticeships programme to take on apprentices aged 16 to 24. The National Apprenticeship Service is currently working up detailed eligibility criteria for the scheme, which will commence from April this year.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cases of data loss or breaches of confidentiality occurred in his Department in 2011. [90682]

**Mr Davey:** I am pleased to confirm that there were no data losses or breaches of private and confidential information in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills during 2011.

### Executives: Pay

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to make votes on executive pay at annual general meetings of companies listed on the London Stock Exchange legally binding; [90640]

(2) what plans he has to limit executive pay in companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. [90641]

**Mr Davey:** The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), will be making an announcement to Parliament in due course.

### Food: Prices

**Mrs Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals on the unit pricing of groceries. [90510]

**Mr Davey:** I have no plans to amend the current legislation on unit pricing of groceries.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Elizabeth Truss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of home students in England initially enrolled on an arts or social science degree switched to a science degree in each year since 2005. [90617]

**Mr Willetts:** This information is not held centrally.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter of 19 December 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on funding for the Widening Participation Premium. [90561]

**Mr Willetts:** I replied to the hon. Member on 18 January 2012.

### Retail Trade

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase high street trading in areas of *(a)* high and *(b)* low deprivation; and if he will make a statement. [90558]

**Mr Davey:** The Mary Portas Review, an independent review into the future of high streets, was published in December, setting out a series of recommendations for industry, local and central Government, business, landlords and members of the public. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has welcomed the report and is working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government who are leading on the response, due to be published in the spring.

### Royal Mail: Pensions

**Ian Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what support he plans to provide to Royal Mail in the event that state aid approval for the pension fund transfer is not granted; and what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on this issue; [90573]

(2) what contingency planning his Department is conducting should state aid approval for the Royal Mail pension fund transfer not be granted; [90575]

(3) when he expects a decision to be made on state aid approval for the Royal Mail pension fund transfer; [90576]

(4) whether the Royal Mail pension fund will be recorded as public sector borrowing should state aid approval not be granted for its transfer. [90574]

**Mr Davey:** Officials continue to work with the EU commission to achieve a decision on the Royal Mail state aid case by 31 March, which will allow Government to implement its policy of relieving the pension deficit. As a matter of prudence, officials have been undertaking contingency planning in the event that this timetable is not met, and have discussed contingency planning with Royal Mail.

As Royal Mail is a private sector entity, the Royal Mail Pension Plan does not impact the public accounts. The expected impact of the transfer of liabilities and assets to Government is outlined in the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook report:

http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/Autumn2011EFO_web_version138469072346.pdf

### Technology: Apprentices

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department attaches any priority to provision of apprenticeships in high technology manufacturing and exporting areas including engineering, IT and science. [90460]

**Mr Hayes:** Focusing investment and efforts where apprenticeships will have the greatest impact and deliver the greatest returns is a priority for this Government.

Significant work is being done across Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) related sectors, for example stimulating employer engagement and raising demand for apprenticeships through a new Memorandum of Understanding between the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) and the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (SEMTA); the development of innovative delivery models for STEM apprenticeships, and a SEMTA-led consortium of providers and employers delivering a new Advanced Manufacturing Higher Apprenticeship Framework. This is a project funded by the Higher Apprenticeship Fund, and it is noteworthy that seven out of the 19 winning bids from the recent Higher Apprenticeship Fund prospectus came from the STEM sector.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Charities: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many charities based in the London borough of Bexley have been *(a)* added to and *(b)* removed from the Charity Commission register in each of the last five years. [90523]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission's chief executive to reply.

*Letter from Sam Younger, dated 18 January 2012:*

I have been asked to respond to your Written Parliamentary Question on how many charities based in the London Borough of Bexley have been (a) added to and (b) removed from the Charity Commission register in each of the last five years [90523].

The Register of Charities is able to show charities which indicate that their area of operation includes Bexley. The number of such charities added to and removed from the Register in each year is as follows:

| | *(a) Registered* | *(b) Removed* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 13 | 10 |
| 2008 | 14 | 10 |
| 2009 | 19 | 20 |
| 2010 | 25 | 10 |
| 2011 | 19 | 17 |

Please note that it is not possible from the information we hold to include charities in Bexley that give their area of operation as all of London; all of England; or all of England and Wales. Furthermore, there may be additional charities in Bexley, such as those with an income of less than £5,000 per annum, which are not required to register and for which the Commission does not hold information.

### Households: Greater London

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average number of children with *(a)* two parents working, *(b)* one parent working and *(c)* no parents working was in (i) Poplar and Limehouse constituency, (ii) the London borough of Tower Hamlets and (iii) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [89863]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what is the average number of children with a) two parents working, b) one parent working and c) no parents working in i) Poplar and Limehouse constituency, ii) the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and iii) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. 89863.

The table shows estimates for the period of January to December 2010 and are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results.

*Average number of children[1,2] with one, both or no parents working in Poplar and Limehouse, Tower Hamlets and England, January-December 2010—not seasonally adjusted*

| | | | *Average number* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *(a) Both parents working* | *(b) One parent working* | *(c) No parents working* |
| Poplar and Limehouse | 1.4 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.3 |
| England | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 |

[1] Children aged 0 to 15.

[2] The average is the total number of children aged 0 to 15 divided by the total number of families with children aged 0 to 15.

*Note:*

Parents of the children in this analysis live in the same household, therefore children of lone parent families can only be accounted for in columns *(b)* and *(c)*.

*Source:*

ONS Annual Population Survey

### National Lottery: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of applications to the Big Lottery Fund from organisations based in the London borough of Bexley were successful in the last three years for which figures are available. [90525]

**Mr Hurd:** 47.1% of applications received by the Big Lottery Fund from organisations based in the London borough of Bexley in the three years to 31 March 2011 were awarded funding.

### New Businesses: Bolton

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses have been established in Bolton since August 2010. [90670]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new businesses have been established in Bolton since August 2010. [90670]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births within a calendar year are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, these statistics are only available up to the calendar year 2010. The results for 2011 will be released on 6th December 2012.

### Public Sector: Pensions

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what further negotiations he plans to undertake with the PCS union on proposed changes to public sector pensions. [88836]

**Mr Maude:** The Government have engaged positively and constructively with the National Trade Union Committee (NTUC), of which PCS is a member, on reforms to the civil service scheme. The Government will continue discussions with the trade unions. Where appropriate the Government will also discuss further proposals for contribution increases to the existing scheme.

These talks are to finalise outstanding details on the propositions in the Heads of Agreement, set out before Christmas, and not to reopen those propositions.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Christmas

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91092]

**John Penrose:** Nothing.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many cases of data loss or breaches of confidentiality occurred in his Department in 2011. [90684]

**John Penrose:** None.

### EU Law

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany and the dates on which those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90693]

**John Penrose:** The information requested is not held by Her Majesty's Government, but the hon. Gentleman's researchers will find it on the European Commission's EUR-Lex website:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu

### Football: VAT

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of applying the standard rate of VAT to the provision of five-a-side football leagues on the level of participation in the sport; and if he will make a statement. [90818]

**Hugh Robertson:** Neither the Department, nor Sport England, have made a specific assessment of the potential effects on levels of participation in sport by the VAT treatment of sports leagues. However, we do record participation levels in sport via the Taking Part Survey and Active People Survey which can be found at the following links:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/4828.aspx

and

http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx

### Olympic Games 2012: Advertising

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what advertising campaigns his Department has run in support of the London 2012 Olympic Games; and what the cost was of each such campaign. [90679]

**Hugh Robertson:** The GREAT Campaign was developed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) while working with No. 10 and other Government partners. Launched in September 2011, it is a long-term initiative bringing together various programmes being run by different Government Departments. The initial contract with the creative communications agency Mother to work on the GREAT Campaign was for £500,000 (excluding VAT). The initial scope of work involved the development of the campaign strategy and messaging, creative design, research and testing, presentations, development of brand guidelines, and account and stakeholder management. DCMS invested a further £44,925.64 (excluding VAT) towards assets for the campaign. The GREAT campaign is now run centrally from the Cabinet Office.

### PhonepayPlus

**Hazel Blears:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the performance of PhonepayPlus. [90305]

**Mr Vaizey:** No assessment has been made. Ofcom has responsibility and accountability for the regulation of premium rate services under the terms of the Communications Act 2003. Ofcom has designated PhonepayPlus to deliver the day-to-day regulation of the market, by approving the PhonepayPlus Code of Practice. Regulatory strategy, scope and policy are developed in dialogue with PhonepayPlus, but final decisions rest with Ofcom.

The relationship between Ofcom and PhonepayPlus is set out in a Formal Framework Agreement, which is available at:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/phonepayplus/summary/formalframework.pdf

### Radio Frequencies

**Andrew Percy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the effect on gross domestic product of the release of spectrum in the 800MHz and 2600MHz bands for 4G mobile services. [90776]

**Mr Vaizey:** Neither the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), nor his officials have made an estimate on the effect on GDP of the release of spectrum in 800 MHz and 2600MHz. The advanced competitive mobile market will clearly be crucial to the economy. Currently, Department officials and the Shareholder Executive are in the process of commissioning work to identify major users of spectrum and the estimated value to the economy (both overall value and what is attributable to spectrum use). The values to be ascertained would be current (2011) and future (over five, ten years). The results are expected to be made available to the Department in July.

**Andrew Percy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ofcom on revising the licence fees for 900MHz and 1800MHz spectrum given the time taken for 4G Spectrum auction. [90777]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has had no specific meetings with Ofcom to discuss revising the licence fees at 900 and 1800MHz. Ofcom is required to amend the annual licence fees for 900MHz and 1800MHz to comply with the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (Directions to OfCOM) Order 2010, and has set out its proposals in the recently published consultation on the auction.

**Andrew Percy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made on the potential number of jobs created as a result of the release of spectrum in the 800MHz and 2600MHz bands for 4G mobile services. [90778]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has made no estimate on the potential number of jobs created by releasing spectrum at 800 MHz and 2600 MHz for use by 4G services.

**Andrew Percy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on the value of licence fees for 900MHz and 1800MHz spectrum of the amount paid for 800MHz spectrum in the recent auction in Italy. [90780]

**Mr Vaizey:** The setting of licence fees for spectrum is a matter for Ofcom, and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has made no assessment of future fees. In its recently announced second consultation on the proposals for the award of 800 and 2600MHz, Ofcom has stated that its approach to setting annual licence fees will not be to rely on a single methodology and source of information. Ofcom expects to extract information from the bids in the auction using more than one methodology and use this alongside other evidence, such as the information on spectrum value that it uses to set reserve prices, and information from auctions in other countries for similar spectrum.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Flags

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is the number of EU flags held by his Department. [90786]

**Mr Lidington:** Two EU flags are held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the UK.

Details of flags purchased overseas or by other Departments within the FCO for internal display are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Iran: Mass Media

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) their international counterparts, (ii) the BBC World Service and (iii) the International Telecommunications Union on steps by the Iranian authorities to disrupt media services. [90564]

**Alistair Burt:** EU Foreign Ministers have discussed and condemned Iranian disruption of international satellite broadcasts, most recently in October 2011 when they called on the Iranian authorities to lift all restrictions on communications immediately. Officials in my Department have had regular discussions with international counterparts, broadcasters and satellite owners on this issue. We have worked with international partners to raise interference with satellite broadcasts at meetings of the International Telecommunications Union. We will be pressing for farther action at the upcoming World Radiocommunications Conference.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the compatibility of the actions by the Iranian authorities to disrupt media services with that country's obligations within the International Telecommunications Union. [90565]

**Alistair Burt:** Any member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) must abide by its constitution, which prohibits 'harmful interference' with communications. Satellite owners have regularly traced jamming of international satellite broadcasts to Iranian territory. So far Iran has failed to heed the calls of the international community to cease interference emanating from its territory, including instructions from the Radio Regulations Board of the ITU. We will continue to work with international counterparts to ensure this issue remains on the agenda of the ITU.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the extent to which the output of BBC Persian TV is blocked by the Iranian authorities; and what steps he is taking to bring such action to an end. [90566]

**Alistair Burt:** Interference with broadcasts of BBC Persian TV and other international satellite broadcasters has intensified over the past year, and satellite owners have regularly traced such interference to Iranian territory. Such interference with satellite broadcasts is just one aspect of Iran's repeated attacks on freedom of expression and attempts to control information which include heightened censorship of the internet, the closure of at least seven national newspapers in 2011, and the regular arrest of journalists and bloggers. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and I have worked to increase international recognition and condemnation of Iranian interference with satellite broadcasts, including by EU Foreign Ministers in October 2011 and by the UN General Assembly in December 2011. We will continue to raise the issue of jamming at the International Telecommunications Union's World Radiocommunications Conference and work with partners there for action to prevent such blocking.

## North Korea

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* his predecessors, *(c)* Ministers in his Department and *(d)* their predecessors have had with their North Korean counterparts in each year since 2001. [90195]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Engagement at ministerial level in the last 10 years has been limited. The then Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister of State (Bill Rammell) visited North Korea in September 2004, where he met Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun.

In October 2011, the former Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Baroness Amos visited North Korea where she met North Korean Government Ministers to discuss chronic poverty, under-development and poor infrastructure.

Since opening diplomatic relations with North Korea 11 years ago, the UK has operated a policy of critical engagement at official level that offers the best possible lever for change. There is regular communication at official level between our embassy in Pyongyang and the North Korean Government and between the North Korean embassy here in London and officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

## North Korea: Human Rights

**Mr Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the North Korean authorities on *(a)* human rights abuses, *(b)* forced repatriations, *(c)* the treatment of religious groups and *(d)* people held in labour camps. [90191]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We use every opportunity to raise reported abuses of international human rights standards with the North Korean Government both through the embassy of North Korea in London and through our embassy in Pyongyang. This includes the treatment of religious groups and people held in labour camps. During a meeting last week, our ambassador in North Korea raised the UK's concerns to Vice Foreign Minister Kung Sok Ung.

We also co-sponsor annual UN resolutions (most recently in New York in November 2011) calling for the full implementation of international human rights conventions and norms and for access for the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in North Korea. A visit by the Special Rapporteur would help independently verify the reports of abuses.

At the 19th Round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue held in January 2011, UK officials raised China's forced repatriation of refugees from North Korea with Chinese government officials.

## Syria: Politics and Government

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent visit by Arab League observers to Syria; and if he will make a statement. [90613]

**Alistair Burt:** I have made clear our continued support for the Arab League's efforts to bring pressure to bear on the Syrian regime to stop the killing. We welcome the deployment of its observer mission to Syria on 26 December to assess Syrian implementation of the Arab League plan it agreed on 2 November. In its preliminary report to the Arab League on 8 January, the observer mission noted that despite some limited progress in reducing the military presence on the streets the violence continued. It is due to report on 19 January.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), made clear, most recently in a statement on 11 January, that we urge the Syrian regime to implement in full its commitments to the Arab League on 2 November. It must end the violence, withdraw troops from the streets, release all detainees and engage in a meaningful dialogue with opposition groups. We call again on President Assad to step down and heed the will of the Syrian people.

### Treaty of Lisbon

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made consequent on the signing of the treaty of Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [90758]

**Mr Lidington:** The Lisbon treaty entered into force on 1 December 2009. In respect of the changes introduced under the Lisbon treaty:

a. The President of the European Council and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy are in office.

b. The EU External Action Service has been in operation for a year, and the High Representative sent a progress report to EU Foreign Ministers on 22 December 2011 ahead of a full-scale review in 2013. The EAS supplements and complements, but does not replace, the UK diplomatic service. The Government have made clear where they believe the EAS should and should not act, in accordance with the treaties.

c. The Judicial Appointments Panel is fully operational in issuing opinions on the nomination of appointments to the European Court of Justice. The Council Standing Committee on Internal Security, whose objective is to facilitate, promote, and strengthen co-ordination of operational actions between member states in the field of internal security, is also operational.

d. The ordinary legislative procedure (formerly known as co-decision) has been introduced in agriculture and other areas; new procedures agreed for the annual budget of the EU; an accelerated process has been agreed for fining member states in infractions cases; and a new comitology decision adopted for scrutiny by member states of the Commission's exercise of its powers in relation to implementing and delegated acts are all bedding down.

e. Decision-making on Justice and Home Affairs issues has moved from unanimity to qualified majority voting and the ordinary legislative procedure. As the UK has the right to 'opt-in' to decisions in this area, its effect on the UK has been limited. At the same time, qualified majority voting in the Council immediately became the norm, unless an exception was included in the treaties.

f. The EU now has a single legal personality.

g. The treaty gave legal effect to the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Charter does not create new rights and principles—it brings existing rights together in one place. The protocol of the Lisbon treaty that refers to the charter does not extend the ability of any court to find that the UK's laws and practices are inconsistent with fundamental rights that it reaffirms. The European Commission has published a strategy on the effective implementation of the charter which includes many of the principles of better regulation used in the UK.

h. Negotiations are ongoing on the terms of accession of the EU to the European convention on human rights.

i. The new procedure for national parliaments to send a reasoned opinion to the European Commission, where they consider a proposal does not uphold the principle of subsidiarity has already been used by both Houses. The Government are currently considering the recommendations of the Commons Procedure Committee on improving procedures for debates on reasoned opinions on subsidiarity.

j. This Government have, by means of the European Union Act 2011, introduced a referendum lock on the use of any of the passerelles introduced in the Lisbon treaty which transfer power or competence from the UK to the EU, and stronger parliamentary controls on use of all of the passerelles now in the EU treaties, including those added at Lisbon.

k. Proposals have been published by the EU institutions aimed at giving effect to the assurances given to the Irish and Czechs.

## HEALTH

### Ambulance Services: Private Sector

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what qualifications are required of staff working for private ambulance companies; and whether such staff and companies are subject to regulation. [90225]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Since 1 April 2011 private ambulance providers were required to register with the Care Quality Commission.

All paramedics as individual health care professionals are subject to statutory regulation in the United Kingdom by the Health Professions Council.

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to regulate the private ambulance sector. [90226]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Since 1 April 2011 private ambulance providers were required to register with the Care Quality Commission and meet a set of 16 registration requirements.

The 16 registration requirements reflect the essential levels of safety and quality of care that people should be able to expect, and are built around the main risks inherent in the provision of health and adult social care services.

### Benzodiazepines

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1137-42W, on benzodiazepines, how many companies hold licences for the manufacture or distribution of *(a)* Nitrazepam, *(b)* Flurazepam, *(c)* Loprazolam, *(d)* Lormetazepam, *(e)* Temazepam, *(f)* Clonazepam, *(g)* Medazepam and *(h)* Midazolam; and how many of those licences were issued in the last three years. [90391]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The current position is that:

16 products are authorised in the United Kingdom containing nitrazepam and 16 different companies are authorised to manufacture and distribute them;

Two products are authorised in the UK containing flurazepam and one company is authorised to manufacture and distribute them;

One product is authorised in the UK containing loprazolam;

Six products are authorised in the UK containing lormetazepam and three different companies are authorised to manufacture and distribute them;

10 products are authorised in the UK containing temazepam and six different companies are authorised to manufacture and distribute them;

Nine products are authorised in the UK containing clonazepam and four different companies are authorised to manufacture and distribute them;

There are no authorised products in the UK containing medazepam; and

23 products are authorised in the UK containing midazolam and 10 different companies are authorised to manufacture and distribute them.

Four clonazepam, two lormetazepam and five midazolam products have been authorised in the last three years.

Details are as follows for all benzodiazepines.

There are currently 173 products authorised in the UK containing benzodiazepines. There are 46 different companies authorised to manufacture and distribute them. 11 new marketing authorisations for benzodiazepines have been authorised in the last three years. Details for each benzodiazepine have been placed in the Library.

This supersedes the information given to the hon. Member on 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1137-42W.

### Cancer: Young People

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the retention of teenage and young adult cancer services within the national definitions of specialised services and the commissioning of such services by the NHS Commissioning Board. [90301]

**Paul Burstow:** Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill the NHS Commissioning Board will handle the future commissioning of specialised services. This will ensure consistency in planning and funding of specialised services for the benefit of patients with rare conditions.

Ministers will be in a position to make final decisions on which services the NHS Commissioning Board will commission later this year.

### Public Sector: Pay

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* bonuses, *(b)* allowances and *(c)* other payments additional to basic salary in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what categories of payment may be made to officials in addition to basic salary; what the monetary value is of each category of payment; and what the monetary value was of the 20 largest such payments made in each of the last two years. [89684]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested for the Department and its non-departmental public bodies has been placed in the Library. The information given relates to 2010-11 and 2011-12 to 31 December 2011.

The Department has also published information on non-consolidated performance payments for 2010-11 and this is available on its website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/HowDHworks/Transparency/index.htm

For the Department itself, non-consolidated performance payments are an integral part of its reward strategy covering all staff.

These payments are used to reward outstanding performance and behaviours in delivering the Department's agenda and do not add to future pay bill costs. For the senior civil service, the percentage of pay bill set aside for performance-related awards is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. For other grades, the Department has delegated authority to tailor reward packages to meet business needs and the percentage of base pay devoted to non-consolidated performance pay cannot increase in the pay freeze.

The Department has a number of other additions to base pay, including scarce skills allowances and overtime. Different allowances and payments exist in each of the Department's non-departmental public bodies.

Most of the 20 largest payments made in each of the last two years relate to Clinical Excellence Awards which recognise and reward national health service consultants and academic general practitioners who perform over and above the standard expected in their role. Awards are given for quality and excellence, acknowledging exceptional personal contributions.

### Diabetes

**Steve McCabe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to *(a)* provide information about and *(b)* offset the risk of diabetes among women aged between 15 and 34. [88356]

**Paul Burstow:** Type 1 diabetes is not currently preventable. Type 2 diabetes can be linked to obesity and inactivity. Information on diabetes for people of all ages is available on the NHS Choices website, including information on symptoms of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, and on the risk factors and prevention of Type 2 diabetes. We are also committed to the Change4life programme. This promotes healthy lifestyles, encouraging people to make simple changes such as eating more fruit and vegetables, cutting down on fatty foods, reducing their calorie consumption and being more active. Reducing risk factors and following a healthy lifestyle will help to prevent the onset of Type 2 diabetes.

Information is also available to the local commissioners of health care services. Clinical guidelines on diabetes and the NICE Quality Standard for Diabetes published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) emphasise the importance of patient education in helping people to manage their condition, and to reduce the risk of complications. The 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework also reiterates the need to commission patient structured education for people newly diagnosed with diabetes and at appropriate points in their life as their condition progresses.

**Steve McCabe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has put in place for better management of diabetes. [88570]

**Paul Burstow:** The Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce a clinical guideline and a Quality Standard for diabetes. These set out what good diabetes care and management looks like, for use by health care professionals and local commissioners in ensuring that local diabetes services are appropriate to their population's need.

The NICE clinical guideline and Quality Standard also emphasise the importance of patient education. Joint working between the patient and professional is key to the management of diabetes. Patients should be offered structured education about their condition and its management, to help reduce complications and unnecessary hospital admissions.

In addition, the 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework signalled the need to commission patient structured education for people newly diagnosed with diabetes and at appropriate points in their life as their condition progresses.

### Health: Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned to measure the subjective well-being of children. [90142]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department's Policy Research Programme and the National Institute for Health Research have not commissioned research specifically to measure the subjective well-being of children, but fund a wide range of research relating to the well-being of children.

The Office for National Statistics is working with a range of stakeholders to develop well-being measures for children and young people as part of the overall Measuring National Well-being Programme.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what methods are used by his Department to measure the effects of its decisions on the subjective well-being of children; [90143]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill on levels of subjective well-being of children. [90144]

**Anne Milton:** The Department has a wide range of indicators within the NHS Outcomes Framework and the forthcoming Public Health Outcomes Framework as a basis for indicating whether health related provision for children and young people is effective, and improving and contributing positively to their development. These include, infant mortality (and neonatal mortality and stillbirths) as well as reducing unplanned hospitalisation of children with asthma, diabetes and epilepsy. However, the Department does not have a formal measure of the contribution of health to a child's subjective well-being.

There is more to do and as our data improve, we want to ensure we have the best possible suite of measures to promote improvement. We have development work under way to improve the data collected on child health to ensure the outcomes frameworks as they develop can better drive the improvements for children's health.

The impact of the Welfare Reform Bill on the subjective well-being of children is a matter for the Department for Work and Pensions.

### NHS: Procurement

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what changes he has introduced in healthcare procurement since the publication of the 35th report from the Committee of Public Accounts on the procurement of consumables by NHS acute and foundation trusts, HC 875; and if he will make a statement; [90363]

(2) what mechanism the NHS has put in place to measure the effectiveness of procurement in terms of *(a)* cost, *(b)* resources, *(c)* procedures and *(d)* output. [90374]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There are a number of actions the Department has committed to within the 35th report from the Committee of Public Accounts on the procurement of consumables in the national health service acute and foundation trusts.

These are being monitored and progress reported to the Public Accounts Committee. The actions focus on providing guidance and networks for the NHS to use to improve NHS procurement.

Procurement networks have been established, and standards for procurement in the NHS have been developed which describe good practice at three levels of maturity for each standard. These will be launched in March 2012. The NHS procurement strategy is currently being drafted and will draw together all plans for improvements through local, regional and national initiatives as well as describing what has already been achieved.

The 35th Report from the Committee of Public Accounts and the Operating Framework for the NHS 2012-13 both make commitments on the publication of an NHS procurement strategy in April 2012.

This will include a set of standards for procurement in the NHS which will suggest key performance indicators for each standard. These standards will be launched in March 2012. In addition the strategy will indicate the core measures which could be used to measure procurement in the NHS. However, there are currently no plans for the Department to collect and collate any performance information centrally.

### Opiates: Prescriptions

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the guidance issued to GPs on the prescription of opiate-based drugs and medicines. [90335]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We have made no such assessment.

Prescribers have access to a wide variety of impartial, trustworthy information resources to support their prescribing. These include:

the British National Formulary;

independent advice and guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence;

the Summary of Product Characteristics, provided by manufacturers as part of the regulatory process, for individual medicines; and

the wealth of information available through NHS Evidence, and various academic and professional journals.

National health service prescribers also have access to advice from the network of local drugs and therapeutics committees and primary care trust pharmaceutical advisers.

In addition, those opiate-based medicines classed as controlled drugs are subject to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 as amended.

### Prescriptions

**Jack Lopresti:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made on the number of uncollected NHS prescriptions in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of uncollected prescriptions in each year; [90271]

(2) whether he has any plans to take steps to reduce the number of uncollected NHS prescriptions. [90272]

**Mr Simon Burns:** There is no estimate of the number of prescriptions uncollected in 2010 and 2011. Also, as there is no actual supply of a drug to a patient there is no cost of the drug to the national health service.

Where a patient presents a prescription form to a dispensing contractor for dispensing, the prescription item would then be prepared ready for collection. However, if the patient does not return to collect the item, a dispensing contractor cannot make a claim for reimbursement, as the drug has not been supplied to the patient.

While there are currently no plans to take steps to specifically reduce the number of uncollected prescriptions, pharmacies offer a range of services, which help patients to get the most out of their medicines, ranging from repeat dispensing, to the new medicine service and medicine use review.

### Sunbeds

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the enforcement of the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010; and what steps his Department has taken to ensure local authorities can take necessary enforcement actions; [90402]

(2) how many sunbed businesses have been prosecuted under the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 for allowing people aged under 18 to use sunbeds in England and Wales since April 2011. [90403]

**Anne Milton:** The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010, which came into effect on 8 April 2011, provides that responsibility for enforcement of the Act is a matter for local authorities. The Act makes provision about powers of entry and related matters. The Department has issued guidance for local authorities on the implementation of the Act—"Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010: Guidance on the implementation of the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010".

This was accompanied by—"Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010: Information for Sunbed Businesses". Copies of the documents have been placed in the Library and are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_125656

The Department does not hold information on the number of sunbed businesses in England and Wales that have been prosecuted under the Act.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* The Art Room, *(b)* the National Portrait Gallery, *(c)* Mountain Rescue England, *(d)* the English Schools Swimming Association, *(e)* the Scout Association and *(f)* Missing Links UK in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90748]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department can confirm that no funding has been made available to the named organisations in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

## JUSTICE

### Crime: Children

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children under the age of 10 years were found to have committed *(a)* serious assault, *(b)* rape and *(c)* murder in each of the last 10 years. [90642]

**Mr Blunt:** The age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales is 10 years. This means that only individuals aged 10 years or over can be prosecuted for a criminal offence and Ministry of Justice records do not include children under the age of criminal responsibility.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for criminal injuries compensation were ruled eligible in each year from 1997 to 2011. [90753]

**Mr Djanogly:** Figures covering the specified period are shown in the following table. The figures given show how many applicants were offered and accepted awards in each financial year, but a proportion of these applications will have been lodged in previous years.

| *Financial year* | *Number of eligible applications* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 31,528 |
| 1998-99 | 40,164 |
| 1999-2000 | 39,513 |
| 2000-01 | 36,753 |
| 2001-02 | 39,631 |
| 2002-03 | 42,136 |
| 2003-04 | 41,204 |
| 2004-05 | 35,334 |
| 2005-06 | 33,681 |
| 2006-07 | 31,387 |
| 2007-08 | 39,046 |
| 2008-09 | 36,354 |
| 2009-10 | 37,844 |
| 2010-11 | 39,807 |

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the backlog was of unprocessed applications to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority on 1 January of each year from 1997 to 2012. [90779]

**Mr Djanogly:** CICA currently starts processing cases as soon as it receives them. Figures covering cases that were started but not yet closed at the beginning of each year are shown in the following table. These figures do not include cases lodged before CICA was established in 1996, which is why the figure increases sharply between 1997 and 1998.

| | *Number of unprocessed applications* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 48,603 |
| 1998 | 79,149 |
| 1999 | 81,937 |

| | *Number of unprocessed applications* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 85,310 |
| 2001 | 90,690 |
| 2002 | 93,932 |
| 2003 | 89,025 |
| 2004 | 85,113 |
| 2005 | 80,948 |
| 2006 | 83,946 |
| 2007 | 83,604 |
| 2008 | 82,377 |
| 2009 | 74,604 |
| 2010 | 57,838 |
| 2011 | 60,622 |
| 2012 | 59,454 |

### Prison Accommodation

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 30-34W, on prison accommodation, whether the data include figures for privately-run prisons. [90751]

**Mr Blunt:** I can confirm to the right hon. Member that the data included in the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 30-34W, on prison accommodation included figures for privately-run prisons.

## DEFENCE

### Army

**Mr Jim Murphy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the size of the Army will be at the end of each calendar year from 2011 to 2015. [82201]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* The outcome of the strategic defence and security review in October 2010 announced a reduction by 7,000 personnel in the Regular Army, so that by 2015 the size shall be 95,000. Subsequently, the Defence Transformation announcement made by the then Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-645, confirmed that there would be an integrated Army of around 120,000 by 2020, comprising a trained strength of 82,000 Regulars and at least 30,000 Reserves, with a training margin of 8,000 Reserves. Across Defence, the Reserves will benefit from £1.5 billion investment over 10 years to reinvigorate their contribution to all three services.

Specific detail on the size of the Army by year from 2011 to 2015 is the subject of further work and has not yet been determined.

A redundancy process has already started, but natural turnover of personnel and a reduction in recruitment will be used before compulsory redundancy is applied.

### Army: Uniforms

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value is of the contract for the new multi-terrain pattern uniform for the British Army; and where that uniform is being manufactured. [89951]

**Peter Luff:** The new multi-terrain pattern camouflage Personal Clothing System Combat Uniform (PCS CU) is being procured as part of a larger contract supplying a wide range of military clothing. The cost of providing the PCS CU to UK armed forces personnel is approximately £12 million in total. The new uniforms are being supplied by a UK company which has subcontracted manufacturing work to a company based in China.

### Harrier Aircraft

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what costs his Department incurred in respect of *(a)* legal, *(b)* consultancy and *(c)* currency brokerage costs associated with (i) the sale of the Harrier aircraft to the US and (ii) the retirement of the fleet; and if he will make a statement; [89040]

(2) whether his Department is likely to incur any costs or receive any further invoices from the retirement of the Harrier fleet and sale of 72 aircraft to the US; and if he will make a statement; [89041]

(3) whether payment for the 72 Harrier aircraft being sold to the US Marine Corps has been received in full; whether payment is being made in cash or in kind; and if he will make a statement; [89042]

(4) what revenue has accrued to his Department from the sale of Harrier aircraft spares and other associated support equipment; and if he will make a statement. [89090]

**Peter Luff:** No external legal or currency brokerage costs were incurred by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for the retirement of the Harrier fleet or for the sale to the US Government. The external consultancy costs for these two activities were £0.7 million and £0.4 million respectively. We do not expect to incur any further costs relating to the retirement and sale to the US Government of the Harrier fleet.

The value of the sale is $180 million (around £110 million). This figure includes 72 Harrier airframes, spares and associated support equipment. The MOD will receive monetary payment from the US Government for the full value of the Harrier sale before 1 April 2012. Overall £1 billion will be saved from removing the Harrier from service. We continue to operate Tornado, Typhoon and, in the future, JSF.

As agreed with HM Treasury as part of the spending review process, the revenue from the sale of Harrier assets will be retained by the Ministry of Defence and reinvested by the Department in key priorities as part of the Defence Budget.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost to the public purse was of the recent purchase of Danish Merlin HC.3A helicopters. [89988]

**Peter Luff:** The previous Government purchased six Danish Merlin helicopters in 2007 to boost the UK fleet to 28. The cost of acquiring the helicopters was £203.3 million. This figure includes the cost of converting the ex-Danish aircraft for UK operational use, purchase of an initial stock of spares and the cost of procuring six replacement Merlin aircraft for Denmark. The modified

UK Merlin Mk3a helicopters entered service in 2008 and the replacement aircraft were accepted by the Danish in 2009.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the ability to conduct helicopter operations of the postponement of the Defence Rotary Wing Capability Study decision until 2012. [89990]

**Peter Luff:** The Defence Rotary Wing Capability Study reported to the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff in November 2011. The Vice-Chief asked for some further work to be done before the study is finalised, and this work is currently in progress.

The study has had no negative impact on current helicopter operations and completing the study will help us to continue to conduct helicopter operations in the most effective and efficient way into the future.

### Type 26 Frigates

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the potential effect of implementing the Strategic Defence and Security review on the *(a)* overall capability and *(b)* in-service dates of Type 26 frigates. [89423]

**Peter Luff:** The strategic defence and security review (SDSR) decided to merge the two classes of Future Surface Combatant, previously known as the C1 and the C2 variants, into the Type 26 Global Combat Ship. The Type 26 combines advantages of both variants into a versatile ship, designed to readily change roles and capabilities depending on the strategic circumstances. The Type 26 in-service date has not been changed by the SDSR.

### Type 45 Destroyers

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is still his Department's intention to fit Type 45 destroyers with the Co-operative Engagement Capability system. [89424]

**Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which ships will be fitted with Co-operative Engagement Capability. [89415]

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to install the Co-operative Engagement Capability in Type 45 destroyers. [90759]

**Peter Luff:** The Department's planning assumption is that the Co-operative Engagement Capability (CEC) is fitted on to Type 45 Destroyers and Type 26 Global Combat Ships. However, the decision on the ship fit plan will not be taken until the project achieves Main Gate approval. This is currently planned for mid-2012. If approved, it is anticipated that CEC will be installed on to Type 45s from 2018.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Food Waste

13. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce the level of food wasted by food retailers and manufacturers. [90506]

**Mrs Spelman:** Food waste in the UK is valued at £17 billion a year and when landfilled produces methane. Working with retailers and manufacturers, we are reducing food waste through the Courtauld Commitment, helping households waste less and save money through WRAP's Love Food Hate Waste campaign, and clearing up confusion with our date-labelling guidance.

### Single Farm Payment

14. **Julian Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made on improving the process for making payments to farmers under the Single Farm Payment scheme. [90507]

**Mr Paice:** In December 2011, the Rural Payments Agency made the highest ever proportion of payments to English farmers under the Single Payment Scheme in the opening month of the scheme payment window. Latest figures show a total of £1.503 billion had been paid to 95,702 farmers as at 18 January. This demonstrates good progress, but I remain committed to ensuring continued improvements in the level of service farmers receive from RPA.

### Conservation Zones

15. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of marine conservation zones; and if she will make a statement. [90508]

**Richard Benyon:** This Government are fully committed to the establishment of marine conservation zones as part of a network of conservation sites under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Our plans for marine conservation zones were set out in a written ministerial statement on 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS.

### Forestry

16. **Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the chair of the Independent Forestry Panel on its interim report. [90509]

17. **Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the chair of the Independent Forestry Panel on its interim report. [90511]

**Mr Paice:** The Chair of the Independent Panel on Forestry informed me on 28 November 2011 of the Progress Report's content.

### Jobs and Growth

18. **Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to promote jobs and growth in the food production and environmental industries. [90512]

**Richard Benyon:** In the Rural strand of the Growth Review, published alongside the Autumn Statement, we announced an Exports Action Plan and an innovation summit to support the agri-food industry.

We also announced a new £15 million loan fund for community renewables, £15 million for Rural Growth Networks and support for mid-sized businesses to access the £6 billion a year of savings available from resource efficiency.

### Coastal Areas

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress has been made by Natural England on reaching agreements for the new England Coastal Path to cross through park land in *(a)* Weymouth Bay between Portland and Lulworth, *(b)* the Durham, Sunderland and Hartlepool coast between Seaton Carew and South Bents, *(c)* the Norfolk coast between Weybourne and Sea Palling, *(d)* the Somerset coast between Minehead and Brean Down and *(e)* the Cumbria coast between Allonby and Whitehaven; [89563]

(2) what progress Natural England has made in discussions with landowners to find voluntary means for the passing of the English Coastal Path through park land. [89665]

**Richard Benyon:** Where park land may be affected by the possible alignment of the coastal route under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Natural England will hold discussions during the development of its proposals for each stretch of the coastal route with the landowner and those with a legal interest in that land to seek to agree an alignment of the route through the park.

In March 2011, Natural England submitted its coastal access report for the stretch of the English coast at Weymouth between Portland and Lulworth Bay. The report includes a proposal for the coastal route to pass through Nothe Municipal Gardens, Weymouth, which are owned by Weymouth and Portland borough council. The council has agreed to make a dedication of a coastal route through the Gardens.

Natural England is developing its proposals for the coastal route in a further five areas and it has currently identified one area of park land in Somerset which may be affected by the possible alignment of the route. Natural England has scheduled its discussions with landowners and others with an interest in proposals which may affect park land in Somerset between January and the end of March this year. No other areas of park land have been identified in the remaining four areas.

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of fish procured by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies is sourced from Marine Stewardship Council sustainable sources. [89666]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has contracted Eurest Services Ltd to provide catering services at nine sites; this covers the core Department, executive agencies (AHVLA, Cefas, Fera, RPA and VMD) and the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Eurest's contract with DEFRA requires that it meet the mandatory Government Buying Standards (GBS) for Food and Catering Services, including that 100% of fish should be sustainably sourced. The Department is unable to provide information on the percentage of fish from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sources; however it can confirm that fish is not sourced from the Marine Conservation Society 'Fish to Avoid' list. Eurest has made assurances that it will work towards full compliance with the GBS requirements and will report the next quarterly performance against the standards, covering the period to December 2011, by the end of January.

### Departmental Redundancy Pay

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much redundancy pay was paid to civil servants in her Department in each month between September and November 2011. [88006]

**Richard Benyon:** Details of compensation payments made to staff leaving core-DEFRA in the period September to November 2011 are shown in the following table. These payments were made under the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme to staff leaving the Department on a voluntary exit basis.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| September | 162,662 |
| October | 42,503 |
| November | 0 |
| Total | 205,164 |

### Fisheries

**Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made in negotiations on the regional management of fisheries. [88683]

**Richard Benyon:** As UK Fisheries Minister, I continue to have discussions on reform of the common fisheries policy, including on the regionalisation of fisheries management, with a wide range of people and organisations. They include the EU Commission, Members of the UK and European Parliaments, Ministers from other member states as well as representatives of our fishing and related industries.

DEFRA officials continue to work closely with those of other member states, through formal and informal discussions, to build on the Commission's reform proposals and identify practical, legally robust mechanisms to decentralise decision-making. I will continue to press the case for genuine reform as negotiations develop in the Council and European Parliament during 2012.

### Water: Climate Change

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department is providing for investment to improve infrastructure for the purposes of better conserving water supplies in light of changing rainfall patterns; and if she will make a statement. [90223]

**Richard Benyon:** Water companies have statutory duties to maintain adequate supplies of wholesome water, and prepare and maintain water resources management plans which set out how each water company will manage its water resources to ensure a sustainable supply and demand balance over the next 25 years. Water companies must take into account the implications of climate change in their water resources management plans.

It is also for the water company to justify any proposals for new water supply resources (e.g. reservoirs) in its water resource management plans on grounds of need, and it must take account of economic and environmental considerations when doing so. Water companies should look at the full range of options for reducing water demand. Where the projected demand reductions are insufficient or unjustified in terms of cost, water companies should also proceed with the development of sustainable new supply side measures.

## TREASURY

### Children: Day Care

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of revenue that would be generated by *(a)* one parent and *(b)* two parent families returning to full-time work through the funding of 15 hours of nursery provision for three and four year olds; and if he will make a statement. [90357]

**Miss Chloe Smith:** The Treasury have not made any estimates of the impact of the free entitlement on tax revenues through higher labour market participation. The principal aim of the Government's foundation years provision is promoting child development, so that all children have a fair chance to succeed at school and in later life.

### Corporation Tax

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the reduction in the amount of corporation tax paid by *(a)* banks, *(b)* insurance companies, *(c)* hedge funds and *(d)* private equity as a result of the reduction in the rate of corporation tax since May 2010. [90263]

**Mr Gauke:** The reductions in the main rate of corporation tax (CT) announced in June Budget 2010 and Budget 2011 first came into effect from April 2011. The impact of this cut will be first seen in CT receipts figures for 2011-12.

Figures for CT net receipts from 2000-01 to 2010-11 paid by the financial sector are available in Table 11.1A of HMRC's CT Statistics publication. The CT receipts figures for 2011-12 will be available when this publication is updated in the summer. The current publication is available on the internet at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/corporation-tax-statistics.pdf

HMRC produced and published Official Statistics relating to Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and CT receipts from the banking sector on 31 August 2011. A link is provided here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/banking/menu.htm

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in his first Budget, we also introduced a Bank Levy from 1 January 2011. This permanent levy on banks' balance sheets is expected to raise over £2.5 billion each year.

### Financial Services: EU Law

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on the European Commission's *(a)* review of accounting directives and *(b)* transparency directive; [88978]

(2) whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment of the European Commission's *(a)* review of accounting directives and *(b)* transparency directive; [88979]

(3) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's *(a)* review of accounting directives and *(b)* transparency directive; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [88985]

(4) what his policy is on the proposed packaged retail investment products directive; [88988]

(5) what assessment he has made of the European Commission's proposed reform of credit rating agencies; [88992]

(6) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's review of the undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities directive; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90046]

(7) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposal for central securities depositories; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90047]

(8) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposed revision of the markets in financial instruments and market abuse directives; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90048]

(9) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposals for a framework for crisis prevention and management for banks; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90049]

(10) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposed Single Euro Payments Area regulation; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90050]

(11) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposed directive on mortgage credit; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90051]

(12) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposed CRD4 Revision of the capital requirements directive for banks; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90052]

(13) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's recommendation on access to a basic bank account; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90053]

(14) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's review of the insurance mediation directive; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90054]

(15) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's packaged retail investment products directive; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90055]

(16) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposal for a venture capital regime; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90056]

(17) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposed reform of the audit sector; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90057]

(18) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's credit rating agency reforms; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90058]

(19) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposed solvency II implementing measures; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90059]

(20) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on deposit guarantee schemes; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90060]

(21) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposed regulation on over-the-counter derivatives; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90061]

(22) what internal papers have been prepared by his Department on the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on investor compensation schemes; and if he will place a copy of each such paper in the Library; [90062]

(23) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposed reform of the audit sector; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposed reforms; [90065]

(24) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposal for a venture capital regime; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposal; [90069]

(25) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposal for central securities depositories; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposal; [90073]

(26) what his policy is on the European Commission's recommendation on access to a basic bank account; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the recommendation; [90077]

(27) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposed revision of the markets in financial instruments and market abuse directives; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment of the proposals; [90081]

(28) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposals for a framework for crisis prevention and management for banks; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposals; [90085]

(29) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposed Single Euro Payments Area regulation; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposals; [90089]

(30) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposed directive on mortgage credit; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposed directive; [90093]

(31) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposed CRD4 Revision of the capital requirements directive for banks; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposed revision; [90097]

(32) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on investor compensation schemes; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposed revision; [90101]

(33) what his policy is on the European Commission's review of the undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities directive; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the review; [90105]

(34) what his policy is on the European Commission's review of the insurance mediation directive; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment of the review; [90109]

(35) what his policy is on the European Commission's packaged retail investment products directive; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the directive; [90113]

(36) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposed regulation on over-the-counter derivatives; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposed regulation; [90117]

(37) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on deposit guarantee schemes; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment of the proposed revision; [90121]

(38) what his policy is on the European Commission's proposed solvency II implementing measures; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the proposed measures; [90125]

(39) what his policy is on the European Commission's reform of the regulation of credit rating agencies; and whether he has carried out a regulatory impact assessment on the reform. [90129]

**Mr Hoban:** When EU legislation is being reviewed or prepared, responses by the UK authorities to a public consultation will be made available on the Commission website. When EU legislation is proposed an explanatory memorandum is prepared outlining the Government's views. A provisional assessment of the proposal is also prepared. These are public documents that are available in the Library of the House.

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's *(a)* review of accounting directives and *(b)* transparency directive; [88980]

(2) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the *(a)* review of accounting directives and *(b)* transparency directive; [88981]

(3) what recent representations he has received from industry on the European Commission's *(a)* review of accounting directives and *(b)* transparency directive; [88982]

(4) what recent discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's *(a)* review of accounting directives and *(b)* transparency directive; [88983]

(5) when he next plans to discuss the European Commission's *(a)* review of accounting directives and *(b)* transparency directive with his EU counterparts; [88984]

(6) what meetings he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his EU counterparts on the proposed packaged retail investment products directive; [88989]

(7) what representations he has received from the financial industry on the European Commission's proposed packaged retail investment products directive; [88990]

(8) what representations he has received from the *(a)* Bank of England and *(b)* financial sector on the European Commission's proposed reform of credit rating agencies; [88991]

(9) what meetings he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his EU counterparts on the European Commission's proposed reform of credit rating agencies; [88993]

(10) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with, the banking industry on the European Commission's proposed reform of the audit sector; [90063]

(11) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposed reform of the audit sector; and when he next plans to discuss the proposed reform with his EU counterparts; [90064]

(12) how many meetings with the European Commission officials in his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposed reform of the audit sector; [90066]

(13) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's proposal for a venture capital regime; [90067]

(14) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposal for a venture capital regime; and when he next plans to discuss the proposal with his EU counterparts; [90068]

(15) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposal for a venture capital regime; [90070]

(16) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's proposal for central securities depositories; [90071]

(17) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's central securities depositories; and when he next plans to discuss the proposal with his EU counterparts; [90072]

(18) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposal for central securities depositories; [90074]

(19) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's recommendations on access to a basic bank account; [90075]

(20) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's recommendation on access to a basic bank account; and when he next plans to discuss the proposal with his EU counterparts; [90076]

(21) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's recommendation on access to a basic bank account; [90078]

(22) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's proposed revision of the markets in financial instruments and market abuse directives; [90079]

(23) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposed revision of the market in financial instruments and market abuse directives; and when he next plans to discuss the proposed revision with his EU counterparts; [90080]

(24) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposed revision of the markets in financial instruments and market abuse directives; [90082]

(25) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's proposals for a framework for crisis prevention and management for banks; [90083]

(26) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposals for a framework for crisis prevention and management for banks; and when he plans to discuss the proposals with his EU counterparts; [90084]

(27) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposals for a framework for crisis prevention and management for banks; [90086]

(28) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with, the banking industry on the European Commission's proposed Single Euro Payments Area regulation; [90087]

(29) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposed Single Euro Payments Area regulation; and when he next plans to discuss the proposals with his EU counterparts; [90088]

(30) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposed Single Euro Payments Area regulation; [90090]

(31) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with, the banking industry on the European Commission's proposed directive on mortgage credit; [90091]

(32) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposed directive on mortgage credit; and when he next plans to discuss the proposed directive with his EU counterparts; [90092]

(33) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposed directive on mortgage credit; [90094]

(34) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with, the banking industry on the European Commission's proposed CRD4 Revision of the capital requirements directive for banks; [90095]

(35) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposed CRD4 Revision of the capital requirements directive for banks; and when he next plans to discuss the proposed revision with his EU counterparts; [90096]

(36) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposed CRD4 Revision of the capital requirements directive for banks; [90098]

(37) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on investor compensation schemes; [90099]

(38) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on investor compensation schemes; and when he next plans to discuss the proposed revision with his EU counterparts; [90100]

(39) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on investor compensation schemes; [90102]

(40) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's review of the undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities directive; [90103]

(41) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's review of the undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities directive; and when he next plans to discuss the review with his EU counterparts; [90104]

(42) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's review of the undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities directive; [90106]

(43) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's review of the insurance mediation directive; [90107]

(44) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's review of the insurance mediation directive; and when he next plans to discuss the review with his EU counterparts; [90108]

(45) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's review of the insurance mediation directive; [90110]

(46) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's packaged retail investment products directive; [90111]

(47) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's packaged retail investment products directive; and when he next plans to discuss the directive with his EU counterparts; [90112]

(48) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's packaged retail investment products directive; [90114]

(49) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's proposed regulation on over-the-counter derivatives; [90115]

(50) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposed regulation on over-the-counter derivatives; and when he next plans to discuss the proposed regulation with his EU counterparts; [90116]

(51) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposed regulation on over-the-counter derivatives; [90118]

(52) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on deposit guarantee schemes; [90119]

(53) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on deposit guarantee schemes; and when he next plans to discuss the proposed revision with his EU counterparts; [90120]

(54) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposed revision of the directive on deposit guarantee schemes; [90122]

(55) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with the banking industry on the European Commission's proposed solvency II implementing measures; [90123]

(56) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's proposed solvency II implementing measures; and when he next plans to discuss the proposed measure with his EU counterparts; [90124]

(57) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's proposed solvency II implementing measures; [90126]

(58) what recent *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with, the banking industry on the European Commission's reform of the regulation of credit rating agencies; [90127]

(59) on which occasions he has discussed with his EU counterparts the European Commission's reform of the regulation of credit rating agencies; and when he next plans to discuss the reform with his EU counterparts; [90128]

(60) how many meetings with the European Commission officials of his Department have attended on the European Commission's reform of the regulation of credit rating agencies. [90130]

**Mr Hoban:** Ministers and officials, as part of the process of policy development and delivery, have meetings with and receive representations from many European and international counterparts, and a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sector. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and representations.

### Minimum Wage

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the enforcement of the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 in each of the last three financial years. [89329]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 16 January 2013]:* The cost of national minimum wage enforcement in HMRC for each of the last three financial years has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 7,495,445 |
| 2009-10 | 7,710,270 |
| 2010-11 | 7,909,357 |

### Non-domestic Rates

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of calculating the rateable value of premises occupied by small businesses on a zonal basis; [90338]

(2) on what basis premises are defined as non-retail for the purpose of calculating business rates. [90420]

**Mr Gauke:** All rateable property is assessed by estimating its rental value in the open market at the standard valuation date, currently 1 April 2008. To arrive at this, valuation officers may use different valuation methods for different types of property but will follow the normal market practice.

It is usual for the market to value most standard type shops by dividing them into a number of zones. Zones are measured from the front of the property with the zone nearest the front of the shop (Zone A) being the most valuable, with the zone behind that being half as valuable and so on. In contrast the market tends to value large shops at a price per metre on the overall area and valuation officers will usually adopt this approach.

Premises are generally valued for rating on the basis of their current use. Properties used for retail purposes are valued on the basis of their rental value for retail; premises used for non-retail purposes are valued on the basis of their general non-retail use.

### Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

**David Mowat:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to reform Empty Property Rate Relief to help small and medium-sized businesses; and if he will make a statement. [90186]

**Mr Gauke:** As with all taxes and reliefs, HM Treasury keeps the application of business rates to empty property under review. The Government are committed to supporting business and as part of the Autumn Statement announced a further six month extension of the Small Business Rate Relief holiday until April 2013, which will benefit over half a million small businesses.

### PAYE

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1157-58W, on PAYE, how many employers joining the PAYE Real Time Information pilot in *(a)* April 2012 and *(b)* July 2012 will be businesses with (i) zero to nine, (ii) 10 to 49, (iii) 50 to 249 and (iv) more than 250 employees. [90799]

**Mr Gauke:** The number of employers expected to join the PAYE Real Time Information pilot during the first quarter of 2012-13 can be broken down as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 0-9 | 30 |
| 10-49 | 49 |
| 50-249 | 62 |
| More than 250 | 159 |

We do not yet have a breakdown for employers joining the PAYE Real Time Information pilot from July 2012 as the numbers and participants have not yet been confirmed.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1157-58W, on PAYE, whether his Department has sought the consent of the employees of the 300 firms in the pilot of PAYE Real Time Information; and if he will make a statement. [90800]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC has not sought the consent of the employees of the firms in the pilot of PAYE Real Time Information. We are unaware whether the firms participating in the pilot have sought such consent or informed their employees.

An employer's responsibility for calculating and recording PAYE deductions will be largely unchanged under Real Time Information but PAYE information will be reported more regularly to HMRC as an integral part of payroll activity. Employees of pilot employers should not notice any difference to how their PAYE affairs are dealt with.

The reporting of Real Time Information to HMRC by pilot employers will be covered by amendments to the PAYE regulations.

### Public Expenditure

**Elizabeth Truss:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding his Department provided for *(a)* the childcare element of working tax credit, *(b)* electronic childcare vouchers, *(c)* income support for the lone parent group, *(d)* child tax credits, *(e)* working tax credits, *(f)* tax credits in total, *(g)* child benefit, *(h)* maternity leave and *(i)* nurse family partnerships in each year since 1997. [89108]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 12 January 2012]:* HMRC finalised National Statistics for personal tax credits provide total tax credits entitlement split by working tax credit (WTC), child tax credit (CTC), and the child care element of WTC entitlement for all years since 2003-04 when tax credits in their current form were introduced. These can be found in the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards' here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/final-award-main.htm

Table 1.1 on page 20 of the 2009-10 Finalised Statistics (link as follows) provides this information in a time-series going back to 2003-04 for total tax credits, CTC and WTC:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-final-awards-may11.pdf

Child care entitlement is not included separately in this table, but is available elsewhere in the statistics: in table 2.4 in the publications up to and including 2007-08. Beyond that it can be found in table 3.2.

Total expenditure on child benefit going back to 2003-04 can be found in the HMRC Inland Revenue Trust Statements found here:

| | *Link* | *Page No.* |
|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 | http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0910.pdf | 42 |
| 2008-09 | http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf | 39 |
| 2007-08 | http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf | 39 |
| 2006-07 | http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-06-07-acc.pdf | 33 |
| 2005-06 | http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageVAT_ShowContent&propertyType=document&columns=1&id=HMCE_PROD1_025710 | 33 |
| 2004-05 | http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110202154021/http://hmrc.gov.uk/about/ir-report2005.pdf | 20 |
| 2003-04 | http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110202154021/http://hmrc.gov.uk/pdfs/report2004.pdf | 58 |

Prior to this, child benefit for Great Britain was administered by the Department for Work and Pensions. Expenditure for each year going back to the 1950s can be found here (row 8 of table 1a):

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/autumn_2011.xls

The Family Nurse Partnership programme is primarily funded locally by primary care trusts, in some cases with a contribution from local authorities.

Funding from primary care trusts is drawn from the funding which the Department of Health allocates annually to PCTs. The Government do not collect information centrally on how much each PCT chooses to spend on the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme.

However, early evaluation suggests that the approximate local cost of delivering FNP is approximately £3,000 per family per year.

Families receive assistance from FNP for up to two and a half years.

The total number of clients to have received assistance from the FNP programme to date is over 8,000.

The approximate number of new families who have joined FNP each year from 2007 was 1,189 in 2007-08, 889 in 2008-09, 2,331 in 2009-10, 2,583 in 2010-11 and 1,367 so far in 2011-12.

In addition to local funding, the Government have provided a small amount of central funding which is used to support the implementation of the programme, usually in the first year of local delivery.

The value of the relief from income tax and national insurance for employer-supported child care vouchers, introduced in 2005, is estimated to be as follows:

| | *Value (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 300 |
| 2008-09 | 400 |
| 2009-10 | 460 |
| 2010-11 | 530 |
| 2011-12 | 670 |

Estimates are not available for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Total expenditure on income support for lone parents (using the National Statistics definition) is estimated to be as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 4,444 |
| 2001-02 | 4,623 |
| 2002-03 | 4,787 |
| 2003-04 | 4,888 |
| 2004-05 | 4,597 |
| 2005-06 | 3,943 |
| 2006-07 | 3,604 |
| 2007-08 | 3,386 |
| 2008-09 | 3,060 |
| 2009-10 | 2,842 |
| 2010-11 | 2,615 |

Please note that this includes cases who continue to receive the child element of child tax credit through benefits. These cases are also included in HMRC's child tax credit expenditure statistics.

IS for lone parents is defined hierarchically so that any lone parents on income support receiving an incapacity benefit are not classed as lone parents are not included in the expenditure figures above.

Expenditure for IS lone parents under the current National Statistics definition is not available pre-2000-01.

However, expenditure figures under the previously used definition can be found in DWP's Benefit Expenditure Tables:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/autumn_2011.xls

Total expenditure for statutory maternity pay, and maternity allowance (National Statistics definition) is estimated to be as follows:

*£ million*

| | *Statutory maternity pay* | *Maternity allowance* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 502 | 36 |
| 1998-99 | 553 | 38 |
| 1999-2000 | 635 | 38 |
| 2000-01 | 648 | 45 |
| 2001-02 | 636 | 56 |
| 2002-03 | 724 | 69 |
| 2003-04 | 1,035 | 128 |
| 2004-05 | 1,291 | 150 |
| 2005-06 | 1,184 | 164 |
| 2006-07 | 1,318 | 175 |
| 2007-08 | 1,629 | 247 |
| 2008-09 | [1]1,953 | 321 |
| 2009-10 | [1]2,023 | 345 |
| 2010-11 | [2]2,093 | 343 |

[1] Provisional outturn figure from HMRC and subject to change following late recoveries or adjustments by employers.

[2] DWP Autumn Statement 2011 forecast no official outturn data yet available.

Outturn figures are consistent with those in latest published DWP benefit expenditure tables available here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=medium_term

### Radio Frequencies

**Andrew Percy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has assessed the Deloitte report on the economic impact of the deployment of 4G mobile technology in the US published in August 2011; what assessment he has made of the likely economic impact of the deployment of 4G in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [90801]

**Mr Vaizey:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as the Minister with responsibility for spectrum policy.

I have not made any assessment of the Deloitte report to which the hon. Member refers and my Department has made no estimate of the economic effect of the deployment of 4G services in the UK. In June 2009, Ofcom concluded that the net benefit of clearing the 800 MHz band so that it was suitable for 4G use, over and above that of releasing the UK's digital dividend as then constituted, could lie within the range of £2-3 billion.

Currently, officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Shareholder Executive are in the process of commissioning work to identify major users of spectrum and estimate their value to the economy (both overall value and what is attributable to spectrum use). The values to be ascertained would be current (2011) and future (over 5, 10 years). The results are expected to be made available to the Department in July.

### Tax Evasion

**Fiona Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce *(a)* tax evasion and *(b)* money laundering. [89664]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The Government are determined to tackle tax evasion of all kinds and ensure that the tax system operates fairly and efficiently for all. As part of the 2010 Spending Review settlement we announced that just over £900 million would be made available to HMRC to step up their activity in tackling tax loss. So for the four-year period from April 2011 HMRC will reinvest £917 million of the savings they make to maximise additional revenues, which will include putting extra resource into tackling both evasion and avoidance. This reinvestment will fund a range of measures which will enable HMRC to bring in around £7 billion each year by 2014-15 in additional revenues.

HMRC acts as a supervisor under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 for the following four business sectors:

Money service businesses

High value dealers

Trust or company service providers

Accountancy service providers.

The regulations have been put in place to make money laundering more difficult for criminals and terrorists by increasing awareness of how businesses could be used to launder money and putting in place processes to allow them to report any possible instances of such. All businesses that are covered by the regulations also have to put in place suitable anti-money-laundering controls to prevent them being used for money laundering. These include appointing a "nominated officer", checking the identity of customers and keeping all relevant documents. Businesses must also report any suspicious activity to the Serious Organised Crime Agency. Businesses that fail to comply with the regulations and other related legislation are subject to financial penalties or prosecution. Money service businesses and trust or company service providers may also have their registration cancelled.

### Taxation: Multinational Companies

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the likely effect on developing countries of the proposed changes in the Finance Bill to the rules governing Controlled Foreign Companies. [90619]

**Mr Gauke:** Written representations have been received from NGOs on the potential impact of the reform of the Controlled Foreign Company (CFC) rules on developing countries.

Ministers and officials have an ongoing dialogue with NGOs on issues with which they are concerned.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on developing countries of the proposed changes in the Finance Bill to the rules governing Controlled Foreign Companies. [90620]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government have not produced an assessment of the effect on developing countries of the proposed changes to the CFC rules as these rules are designed to prevent artificial diversion of UK profits. The Government work through a variety of channels to deliver high quality capacity building in developing country tax administrations to ensure that these countries are in a position to collect the tax they are owed.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Public Houses

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of publicans who are in receipt of tax credits. [90200]

**Mr Gauke:** This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

## EDUCATION

### Academies: Finance

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements are in place to audit financial expenditure in academies. [90228]

**Mr Gibb:** Academies are operated by charitable Trusts that are incorporated as companies limited by guarantee. Academy Trusts must comply with the Companies Act 2006 and this includes the preparation of annual financial statements ("accounts"). The accounts must report a Trust's income and expenditure during its accounting year, and its assets and liabilities at the end of the year. Under the Act the accounts must be audited by a registered auditor and filed with the registrar of companies to provide public access. The statutory requirement to produce annual accounts, to have them audited and to publish them is also set out in Academy Trust Funding Agreements with the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove). Additionally Funding Agreements allow for the books and accounts of the Trust to be open at all reasonable times to officials of the Department for Education and the National Audit Office for inspection.

### Curriculum

**Margot James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he has made on his plans to increase the length of the school day for maintained schools. [89906]

**Mr Gibb:** The Government have made it easier for schools that want to change their school hours to do so. We have given schools greater freedom and responsibility as to how they plan their school day by revoking the Changing of School Session Times (England) Regulations 1999, which prescribed the circumstances for changing the length of a school day for community and voluntary controlled schools. Since September 2011, schools and their governing bodies can take decisions about the length of the school day in whatever way they consider appropriate according to local needs and circumstances. Academies, foundation schools and voluntary aided schools already had this freedom.

### Curriculum: Design

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the learning objectives are of the design and technology curriculum. [89969]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The learning objectives for design and technology within the current National Curriculum are for pupils to learn how to:

develop, plan and communicate their ideas about design projects;

work with tools, equipment, materials and components to make quality products;

evaluate the appropriate processes and products required for individual projects; and

develop knowledge and understanding of materials and components.

In addition, at Key Stage 3, pupils are expected to develop knowledge and understanding of structures, and (where appropriate) knowledge and understanding of systems and control.

### Free School Meals

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were entered for (i) GCSEs and (ii) A levels awarded by the (A) AQA, (B) Edexel and (C) OCR exam board in each year since 2000; and what proportion of the total number of pupils entered for (1) GCSEs and (2) A levels these figures represent. [84575]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### GCSE

**Damian Hinds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the *(a)* average mark and *(b)* equivalent grade achieved by students sitting a GCSE was in (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) French, (iv) religious education, (v) geography, (vi) physics, (vii) double science and (viii) overall through (A) Edexcel, (B) WJEC, (C) OCR and (D) AQA in each of the last 10 years; [87794]

(2) how many students were entered for a GCSE in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* French, *(d)* religious education, *(e)* geography, *(f)* physics, *(g)* double science and *(h)* total through (i) Edexcel, (ii) WJEC, (iii) OCR and (iv) AQA in each of the last 10 years. [87795]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department does not hold information on the average marks obtained in GCSE or equivalent qualifications. Information on entries and attainment of pupils in GCSE qualifications by subject is published regularly, most recently in "GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2010/11 (Provisional)" (Tables 7-11) available from our website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001034/index.shtml

The information requested for 2009 and 2010 is shown in the following table. Information for 2011 will not be available until late January. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*GCSE attempts and achievements[1] in selected subjects for selected awarding bodies of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in schools (numbers)[2], Year: 2008/09 and 2009/10[3] (Final), Coverage: England*

*(A) Edexcel, 2008/09*

| | | Subject | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *(i) English (Single Award)* | *(ii) Mathematics* | *(iii) French* | *(iv) Religious Studies* | *(v) Geography* | *(vi) Physics* | *(viii) Total—single awards (includes subjects not listed)* |
| Grade | A* | 911 | 15,498 | 4,196 | 6,438 | 3,376 | 1,469 | 65,118 |
| | A | 3,936 | 44,972 | 6,470 | 12,836 | 4,040 | 2,848 | 131,496 |
| | B | 6,115 | 63,834 | 8,950 | 15,227 | 4,115 | 2,916 | 174,219 |
| | C | 4,887 | 81,203 | 11,574 | 13,137 | 4,788 | 1,808 | 192,530 |
| | D | 2,723 | 52,366 | 8,058 | 7,919 | 3,114 | 526 | 119,259 |
| | E | 1,752 | 35,058 | 3,681 | 5,563 | 1,516 | 95 | 69,537 |
| | F | 739 | 20,978 | 1,458 | 3,676 | 685 | 28 | 37,646 |
| | G | 295 | 9,009 | 544 | 2,069 | 260 | 2 | 16,292 |
| | Q (Pending) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | U | 154 | 2,879 | 143 | 973 | 283 | 1 | 6,820 |
| | X (No result) | 26 | 1,972 | 111 | 144 | 40 | 1 | 3,137 |
| | Total entries | 21,538 | 327,769 | 45,185 | 67,982 | 22,217 | 9,694 | 816,056 |

| | | Subject | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *(i) English (Double Award)* | *vii) Double Science* |
| Grade | A*A* | 22 | 0 |
| | A*A | 79 | 0 |
| | AA | 197 | 0 |
| | AB | 293 | 0 |
| | BB | 470 | 0 |
| | BC | 533 | 0 |
| | CC | 570 | 0 |
| | CD | 300 | 0 |
| | DD | 143 | 0 |
| | DE | 127 | 0 |
| | EE | 88 | 0 |
| | EF | 49 | 0 |
| | FF | 34 | 0 |
| | FG | 15 | 0 |
| | GG | 12 | 0 |
| | U | 4 | 1 |
| | X (No result) | 2 | 0 |
| | Total entries | 2,938 | 1 |

*Edexcel, 2009/10*

| | | Subject | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *(i) English (Single Award)* | *(ii) Mathematics* | *(iii) French* | *(iv) Religious Studies* | *(v) Geography* | *(vi) Physics* | *(viii) Total—single awards (includes subjects not listed)* |
| Grade | A* | 1,098 | 18,626 | 4,172 | 6,011 | 3,386 | 1,691 | 66,970 |
| | A | 4,033 | 50,421 | 6,749 | 13,832 | 4,167 | 3,664 | 140,407 |
| | B | 5,891 | 68,274 | 8,986 | 16,496 | 3,950 | 3,648 | 180,868 |
| | C | 5,149 | 90,395 | 10,962 | 13,578 | 4,820 | 2,274 | 201,101 |
| | D | 2,577 | 49,088 | 7,219 | 8,143 | 3,091 | 631 | 111,696 |
| | E | 1,534 | 34,480 | 3,441 | 5,405 | 1,477 | 99 | 66,238 |
| | F | 665 | 25,283 | 1,463 | 3,585 | 574 | 25 | 41,030 |
| | G | 236 | 10,790 | 518 | 2,062 | 195 | 6 | 17,734 |

*Edexcel, 2009/10*

*Subject*

| | | (i) English (Single Award) | (ii) Mathematics | (iii) French | (iv) Religious Studies | (v) Geography | (vi) Physics | (viii) Total—single awards (includes subjects not listed) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Q (Pending) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | U | 123 | 2,897 | 126 | 1,002 | 226 | 2 | 6,722 |
| | X (No result) | 26 | 2,471 | 97 | 125 | 31 | 0 | 3,559 |
| | Total entries | 21,332 | 352,726 | 43,733 | 70,239 | 21,917 | 12,040 | 836,327 |

*Subject*

| | | (i) English (Double Award) |
|---|---|---|
| Grade | A*A* | 27 |
| | A*A | 92 |
| | AA | 228 |
| | AB | 357 |
| | BB | 472 |
| | BC | 580 |
| | CC | 521 |
| | CD | 243 |
| | DD | 119 |
| | DE | 91 |
| | EE | 80 |
| | EF | 49 |
| | FF | 27 |
| | FG | 18 |
| | GG | 3 |
| | U | 2 |
| | Total entries | 2,909 |

*Note:* Edexcel offers a double award in English, double grades not available here for subjects other than English and Double Science.

*(B) WJEC, 2008/09*

*Subject*

| | | (i) English | (ii) Mathematics | (iii) French | (iv) Religious Studies | (v) Geography | (vi) Physics | (vii) Double Science | (viii) Total (includes subjects not listed) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade | A* | 3,219 | 42 | 288 | 917 | 263 | 196 | 0 | 12,202 |
| | A | 9,733 | 109 | 647 | 1,790 | 474 | 183 | 0 | 28,674 |
| | B | 18,804 | 157 | 859 | 2,472 | 629 | 90 | 0 | 47,567 |
| | C | 28,791 | 346 | 1,166 | 2,427 | 1,077 | 36 | 0 | 68,568 |
| | D | 17,368 | 202 | 938 | 1,283 | 827 | 4 | 0 | 40,321 |
| | E | 9,052 | 170 | 496 | 1,041 | 396 | 0 | 0 | 19,911 |
| | F | 4,320 | 169 | 213 | 711 | 235 | 0 | 0 | 9,525 |
| | G | 1,830 | 140 | 65 | 415 | 105 | 0 | 0 | 4,323 |
| | U | 1,189 | 123 | 21 | 192 | 73 | 0 | 0 | 3,512 |
| | X (No result) | 170 | 52 | 13 | 72 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 619 |
| | Total entries | 94,476 | 1,510 | 4,706 | 11,320 | 4,088 | 509 | 0 | 235,222 |

*WJEC, 2009/10*

*Subject*

| | | (i) English | (ii) Mathematics | (iii) French | (iv) Religious Studies | (v) Geography | (vi) Physics | (viii) Total (includes subjects not listed) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade | A* | 3,726 | 33 | 250 | 1,084 | 320 | 203 | 12,900 |
| | A | 11,259 | 79 | 815 | 2,291 | 556 | 226 | 33,108 |
| | B | 21,517 | 139 | 1,115 | 3,090 | 681 | 153 | 54,601 |
| | C | 34,312 | 378 | 1,493 | 3,020 | 1,189 | 82 | 76,464 |

*WJEC, 2009/10*

*Subject*

| | | *(i) English* | *(ii) Mathematics* | *(iii) French* | *(iv) Religious Studies* | *(v) Geography* | *(vi) Physics* | *(viii) Total (includes subjects not listed)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | D | 18,858 | 233 | 1,202 | 1,509 | 921 | 22 | 42,977 |
| | E | 9,337 | 183 | 569 | 1,200 | 445 | 2 | 20,096 |
| | F | 4,472 | 183 | 237 | 819 | 210 | 1 | 9,663 |
| | G | 1,957 | 130 | 69 | 515 | 91 | 0 | 4,486 |
| | U | 1,186 | 52 | 14 | 291 | 79 | 0 | 3,435 |
| | X (No result) | 149 | 46 | 6 | 59 | 8 | 0 | 541 |
| | Total entries | 106,773 | 1,456 | 5,770 | 13,878 | 4,500 | 689 | 258,271 |

*(C) OCR, 2008/09*

*Subject*

| | | *(i) English* | *(ii) Mathematics* | *(iii) French* | *(iv) Religious Studies* | *(v) Geography* | *(vi) Physics* | *(viii) Total (includes subjects not listed)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade | A* | 3,191 | 5,172 | 3,647 | 8,285 | 6,259 | 5,415 | 69,642 |
| | A | 7,392 | 9,871 | 4,555 | 10,293 | 11,908 | 7,346 | 115,279 |
| | B | 10,095 | 13,054 | 5,899 | 10,598 | 13,580 | 7,050 | 140,112 |
| | C | 10,366 | 24,221 | 7,370 | 8,619 | 16,570 | 4,218 | 158,705 |
| | D | 5,377 | 12,520 | 4,620 | 6,014 | 11,698 | 1,092 | 93,033 |
| | E | 2,707 | 7,489 | 1,823 | 3,240 | 5,805 | 224 | 50,785 |
| | F | 1,482 | 6,681 | 650 | 1,822 | 3,304 | 74 | 30,061 |
| | G | 724 | 4,627 | 210 | 921 | 1,679 | 29 | 15,755 |
| | Q (Pending) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | U | 359 | 2,200 | 47 | 472 | 1,163 | 11 | 8,800 |
| | X (No result) | 48 | 499 | 51 | 211 | 66 | 21 | 1,778 |
| | Total entries | 41,741 | 86,334 | 28,872 | 50,475 | 72,032 | 25,480 | 683,951 |

*OCR, 2009/10*

*Subject*

| | | *(i) English* | *(ii) Mathematics* | *(iii) French* | *(iv) Religious Studies* | *(v) Geography* | *(vi) Physics* | *(viii) Total (includes subjects not listed)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade | A* | 3,598 | 6,251 | 3,736 | 8,657 | 6,558 | 7,551 | 74,259 |
| | A | 6,922 | 10,143 | 4,479 | 10,161 | 11,507 | 10,614 | 117,095 |
| | B | 9,130 | 12,516 | 5,459 | 10,993 | 13,590 | 10,820 | 140,843 |
| | C | 8,705 | 23,230 | 6,936 | 9,283 | 16,435 | 6,912 | 155,085 |
| | D | 4,031 | 8,857 | 4,402 | 6,125 | 11,756 | 2,031 | 85,164 |
| | E | 2,125 | 6,151 | 1,467 | 3,843 | 5,421 | 435 | 46,794 |
| | F | 1,068 | 5,442 | 535 | 2,239 | 2,822 | 126 | 26,625 |
| | G | 503 | 3,481 | 164 | 1,095 | 1,487 | 46 | 13,173 |
| | Q (Pending) | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| | U | 258 | 1,074 | 53 | 544 | 1,126 | 19 | 6,754 |
| | X (No result) | 82 | 548 | 50 | 189 | 78 | 86 | 1,937 |
| | Total entries | 36,424 | 77,695 | 27,281 | 53,129 | 70,780 | 38,641 | 667,740 |

*(D) AQA, 2008/09*

| | | Subject | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *(i) English* | *(ii) Mathematics* | *(iii) French* | *(iv) Religious Studies* | *(v) Geography* | *(vi) Physics* | *(viii) Total—single awards (includes subjects not listed)* |
| Grade | A* | 20,585 | 10,355 | 10,438 | 4,860 | 9,092 | 11,466 | 129,720 |
| | A | 54,282 | 16,947 | 13,169 | 8,594 | 12,094 | 12,806 | 227,974 |
| | B | 91,148 | 26,495 | 16,352 | 9,154 | 12,736 | 11,510 | 286,599 |
| | C | 119,757 | 52,322 | 21,802 | 7,000 | 16,646 | 7,975 | 356,581 |
| | D | 79,499 | 28,203 | 14,134 | 3,501 | 9,952 | 2,419 | 203,886 |
| | E | 41,509 | 17,993 | 7,410 | 2,054 | 5,785 | 353 | 109,494 |
| | F | 18,560 | 13,787 | 3,473 | 1,137 | 3,118 | 69 | 57,516 |
| | G | 6,909 | 8,401 | 1,294 | 642 | 1,616 | 22 | 27,090 |
| | Q (Pending) | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| | U | 3,933 | 2,923 | 320 | 425 | 1,401 | 12 | 14,412 |
| | X (No result) | 922 | 797 | 140 | 99 | 124 | 24 | 3,811 |
| | Total entries | 437,106 | 178,225 | 88,532 | 37,466 | 72,564 | 46,656 | 1,417,098 |

| | | Subject |
|---|---|---|
| | | *(vii) Double Science* |
| Grade | A*A* | 0 |
| | A*A | 0 |
| | AA | 0 |
| | AB | 0 |
| | BB | 0 |
| | BC | 0 |
| | CC | 0 |
| | CD | 0 |
| | DD | 1 |
| | DE | 0 |
| | EE | 0 |
| | EF | 0 |
| | FF | 2 |
| | FG | 0 |
| | GG | 5 |
| | U | 1 |
| | X (No result) | 2 |
| | Total entries | 11 |

*AQA, 2009/10*

| | | Subject | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *(i) English* | *(ii) Mathematics* | *(iii) French* | *(iv) Religious Studies* | *(v) Geography* | *(vi) Physics* | *(viii) Total (includes subjects not listed)* |
| Grade | A* | 22,019 | 11,683 | 9,806 | 4,979 | 9,782 | 14,813 | 138,468 |
| | A | 57,173 | 17,718 | 12,652 | 8,861 | 12,496 | 16,285 | 235,148 |
| | B | 95,936 | 26,944 | 16,218 | 9,809 | 12,936 | 15,505 | 297,252 |
| | C | 127,348 | 50,141 | 21,110 | 7,228 | 16,087 | 11,083 | 361,903 |
| | D | 71,857 | 23,708 | 13,525 | 3,489 | 10,678 | 2,580 | 188,887 |
| | E | 34,353 | 14,809 | 6,250 | 2,111 | 5,089 | 354 | 94,264 |
| | F | 15,087 | 11,227 | 2,814 | 1,339 | 2,584 | 80 | 48,506 |
| | G | 5,732 | 6,698 | 1,103 | 759 | 1,143 | 29 | 22,585 |
| | Q (Pending) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 10 |
| | U | 3,452 | 2,356 | 196 | 400 | 1,143 | 17 | 12,651 |
| | X (No result) | 825 | 741 | 117 | 77 | 94 | 132 | 3,441 |
| | Total entries | 433,782 | 166,026 | 83,791 | 39,052 | 72,032 | 60,881 | 1,403,115 |

*Notes:*

1. For each subject only one attempt is counted within each awarding body—that which achieved the highest grade. This may lead to double counting if pupils enter qualifications offered by different awarding bodies in the same subject.

2. No "Double Science" awards were made by Edexcel, WJEC or OCR in 2008/09 or any of these awarding bodies in 2009/10. This award has been succeeded by "Core and Additional Science".

3. Includes attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.

### Private Education: Inspections

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 apply to the inspection of child safeguarding arrangements at independent schools after they have been transferred from Ofsted to the Independent Schools Inspectorate. [87887]

**Mr Gibb:** All statutory inspection reports are published either by Ofsted or by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). Where either inspectorate provides additional advice to the Department for Education in relation to a particular school, it is published unless there are compelling reasons not to do so, such as breaching the privacy of a pupil, prejudicing a police investigation, or placing the safety of pupils at risk.

Any information provided by an inspectorate to the Department falls within scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoI). In addition any pupil, or parent of a pupil, can request personal information from the school they attend, any inspectorate, or the Department for Education, under the Data Protection Act 1998.

ISI is not currently subject to the FoI Act. The Ministry of Justice is considering whether to include ISI in a future order made under section 5 of the FoI Act, which would designate it as a public authority for the purposes the FoI Act in relation to any functions of a public nature that it might perform.

### Schools: Absenteeism

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of half days were missed by pupils in *(a)* maintained primary, *(b)* state-funded secondary and *(c)* special schools due to unauthorised absence in each parliamentary constituency in 2009-10. [87314]

**Mr Gibb:** The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Schools: Vocational Guidance

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what resources he plans to make available to ensure that each school and college in England has a designated careers adviser to work with the chosen careers service provider. [90345]

**Mr Gibb:** Through the Education Act 2011, we are giving schools direct responsibility for securing access to independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils. In support of the new duty, schools will be able to commission high quality support from providers who have achieved a national quality standard for careers guidance. This quality standard will assist schools in making well-informed decisions about which provider to use.

The appointment of designated careers advisers and other staff responsible for the management and delivery of careers provision in school is a matter for the head teacher and governing body.

Schools will meet the costs of careers guidance from their existing budgets. We have protected school budgets, introduced the pupil premium and given schools greater flexibility to determine the best use of resources for every pupil, including on careers guidance.

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to providing careers advice and education to children in Year 6. [90346]

**Mr Gibb:** Young people benefit most from formal careers advice when they are preparing to make decisions about future education and training options. That is why we are placing a duty on schools to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for pupils in years 9 to 11, and consulting on the question of extending this down to year 8.

Career-related advice can help to raise the aspirations of many younger children and develop their awareness of the world of work. Primary schools are best placed to make decisions about the inclusion of such activities in the curriculum, based on the needs of their pupils.

### Teachers: Cambridgeshire

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers were awarded funding from the National Scholarship Fund for Teachers in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire in 2011. [90198]

**Mr Gibb:** The £2 million National Scholarship Fund for teachers was set up to help existing teachers in England develop their skills and to help them deepen their subject knowledge. The first round of successful bids was announced on 12 December 2011.

The number of teachers awarded scholarships in each area was:

*Peterborough*

Four applicants who live in Peterborough

Four applicants who work in Peterborough

*Cambridgeshire*

20 applicants who live in Cambridgeshire

11 applicants who work in Cambridgeshire.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Friday 20 January 2012*

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Accommodation

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Attorney-General who owns the buildings in which the staff of the Treasury Solicitor's Department are based; and if he will make a statement. [91147]

**The Solicitor-General:** One Kemble Street is owned by TS Kingsway Investments S.A.R.L. of Tishmann Speyer Properties UK Ltd 61 Aldwych 6th Floor London WC2B 4AE.

Southern House Croydon—of which part of a floor is leased by TSol—is owned by Whittles Properties Croydon Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of BRB (Residuary) Limited ("BRBR") of Whittles House, 14 Pentonville Road, London N1 9HF.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Attorney-General what recent value-for-money assessment he has made of the location of the Treasury Solicitor's Department; and if he will make a statement. [91148]

**The Solicitor-General:** TSol has occupied its headquarters at One Kemble Street since 2005, HM Treasury having approved a business case for a move to this location in 2003. It is within a convenient distance of most of TSol's clients, the Royal Courts of Justice and the Inns of Court.

As a cost reduction measure, in 2009-10 TSol introduced arrangements for more efficient use of working space. This enabled TSol to sub-let three floors of One Kemble Street to public sector tenants, realising an annual saving of £1.5 million on estate costs.

A rent review has just been concluded resulting in no increase in rent.

### Crown Prosecution Service

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Attorney-General how much funding he allocated to the *(a)* Crown Prosecution Service, *(b)* Serious Fraud Office and *(c)* Treasury Solicitor's Department in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [91149]

**The Attorney-General:** The information requested is contained in the following tables.

*£ million*

| *Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSOL)*[1] | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Resource Funding | 12.946 | 11.976 | 11.976 |
| Capital Funding | 3.610 | 1.800 | 1.800 |

[1] The funding allocated via the spending review process for the Treasury Solicitor's Department also covers the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

*£ million*

| *Crown Prosecution Service* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Resource Funding | 629.10 | 620.89 | 592.48 |
| Capital Funding | 5.10 | 2.62 | 2.70 |

*£ million*

| *Serious Fraud Office* | *2010-11* | *2011-12* | *2012-13* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Resource Funding | 36.931 | 33.859 | 32.130 |
| Capital Funding | 3.100 | 1.580 | 1.600 |

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Attorney-General how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the *(a)* Crown Prosecution Service, *(b)* Serious Fraud Office and *(c)* Treasury Solicitor's Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how many he expects to be employed in each such organisation in 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [91151]

**The Attorney-General:** The information requested is contained in the following table.

*Full-time staff equivalent (FTE) employed*

| *Department* | *2010-11 average number FTE during the year* | *2011-12 approximate average number FTE as of 31 December 2011* | *2012-13 estimated number of FTE staff for the year* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) | 947 | 1,005 | 1,014 |
| Crown Prosecution Service | 8,094 | 7,454 | 7,049 |
| Serious Fraud Office | 317 | [1]300 | 358 |

[1] FTE staff actually in post as of 31 December 2011.

The figures for 2012-13 are projections based on existing departmental budgets and forecast business requirements but may be subject to future change.

The DEFRA legal team became part of TSol in June 2011 resulting in an increase in staff numbers from that date.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices: Devon

**Anne Marie Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employers in *(a)* Newton Abbot constituency and *(b)* Devon have received payments to take on their first young apprentice under the Government's incentive scheme. [90950]

**Mr Hayes:** The Apprenticeship programme is demand led and take-up of apprenticeships by area depends on employer demand. We are therefore unable to provide estimates of the geographical distribution of those companies which will benefit from the incentive payments which the Government announced in November.

Nationally we plan to make 40,000 incentive payments available for small companies who are not currently engaged in the Apprenticeships programme who take on their first apprentices aged 16-24. The National Apprenticeship Service is currently working up a detailed delivery plan and companies will be able to benefit by April this year.

### Apprentices: Yorkshire and Humber

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women enrolled in apprenticeships in (i) information and communication technology and (ii) engineering and manufacturing technology in (A) Haltemprice and Howden constituency, (B) East Yorkshire and (C) the Humberside region in the latest period for which figures are available. [91059]

**Mr Hayes:** Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by gender in Information and Communication Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and all Sector Subject Areas in the Yorkshire and the Humber region, East Riding of Yorkshire local authority and Haltemprice and Howden parliamentary constituency, in the 2010/11 academic year, based on provisional data. Data are based on the home postcode of the learner.

*Table 1: Apprenticeship starts by gender and sector subject area in Haltemprice and Howden parliamentary constituency, East Riding of Yorkshire local authority and the Yorkshire and the Humber region, 2010/11 (provisional data)*

| | | *Information and Communication Technology* | *Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies* | *All apprenticeships* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Haltemprice and Howden constituency | Female | 10 | — | 390 |
| | Male | 10 | 90 | 320 |
| | Total | 20 | 90 | 710 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire local authority | Female | 80 | 140 | 1,890 |
| | Male | 260 | 1,730 | 3,480 |
| | Total | 340 | 1,870 | 5,360 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber region | Female | 390 | 410 | 28,900 |
| | Male | 2,370 | 6,420 | 25,020 |
| | Total | 2,760 | 6,840 | 53,920 |

*Notes:*
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Total figures may not add up due to rounding.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
*Source:*
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on apprenticeship starts by geographic breakdown, gender and sector subject areas are available in the SFR Supplementary Tables:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/Apprenticeship_sfr_supplementary_tables/

### Business: Billing

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of late payments by *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* other creditors on small businesses; and how many such businesses he estimates have become insolvent as a result of late payment by creditors in the latest period for which figures are available. [90952]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) collects information from small businesses via the SME Business Barometer, a regular survey of around 500 SME employers, which includes information relating to the effect of late payments. In the latest survey (August 2011), late payment from other businesses and individual customers was the second most common cause of cashflow difficulties (cited by 58% of businesses). This is particularly problematic in the construction industry, where 80% of SMEs viewed late payment from individuals as a cause of cashflow difficulty.

Of the SMEs that offered credit to customers, 21% said that late payment was a big problem, while 35% said it was not a problem. Again, SMEs in the construction sector were more likely to regard late payment as problematic.

In relation to payments from central Government, 39% of SMEs said they were paid slowly, an increase of 17 percentage points since the last barometer in February, with 43% of SMEs saying that they are usually paid later than 30 days after the receipt of the invoice.

Within the public sector, we are establishing the central Government sector as a payment exemplar with a commitment that central Departments pay 80% of invoices within five days and that main suppliers must pay contractors within 30 days. We require tier 1 contractors (holding public sector contracts) to pay tier 2 suppliers within 30 days by means of a contract condition, and Crown representatives will strongly encourage them to pay more quickly than 30 days, to ensure the benefits of prompt payment are felt through the supply chain. Suppliers and subcontractors working on Government contracts can report instances of late payment to the Mystery Shopper service:

supplierfeedbackservice@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

BIS achieved 95.5% 30 day payment rate in November 2011.

Statistics covering corporate insolvencies for England and Wales do not differentiate by firm size nor by reason(s) for failure. Therefore it is not possible to estimate from official statistics, how many small businesses have become insolvent as a result of late payments. BIS has not commissioned any specific research into this issue.

### Ceramics: Industry

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department provides to the ceramics industry; and if he will make a statement. [90645]

**Mr Prisk:** The ceramics industry has access to the full range of Government support available which includes Business Link, the Manufacturing Advisory Service, the Regional Growth Fund and the Technology Strategy Board.

As part of the Autumn Statement, we announced a package that will reduce the impact of energy and climate change policies on the cost of electricity for those energy intensive industries, such as ceramics, whose international competitiveness is most affected by these policies. This package of measures will be worth around £250 million to Energy Intensive Industries to reduce their energy bills, subject to state aid approval.

In addition, there will be investment available for commercial and industrial energy efficiency projects through the Green Investment Bank, and on 6 December we launched a £125 million challenge fund to boost UK advanced manufacturing supply chains. Both of these schemes will be open to bids from the ceramics industry.

### Further Education: Part-time Education

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that all access and foundation courses are available on a part-time basis. [90601]

**Mr Willetts:** It is for individual institutions, as autonomous bodies, to determine the mix of courses and modes of study they offer based on learner demand and their own context, circumstances and individual missions.

Many access and foundation courses are now provided on a part-time basis in both further and higher education institutions, and provision is increasingly being made available in flexible and innovative ways.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people applied to study at UK universities in each parliamentary constituency in 2011. [88822]

**Mr Willetts:** The information has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and is shown in a table which will be placed in the Library of the House.

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria will be applied by the Office for Fair Access when allocating the additional 20,000 places to institutions. [90602]

**Mr Willetts:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) are responsible for allocating government funded places in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in England. Bids from HEIs for places from a competitive margin of 20,000 for the academic year 2012-13, are currently being assessed by HEFCE against three criteria: demand, quality and average fee. Guidance about the bidding process is published on the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2011/11_30/

### Office for Fair Access

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to allowing student representatives to sit on the board of the Office for Fair Access. [90344]

**Mr Willetts:** The Office for Fair Access does not have a board.

The Director of Fair Access does, however, have a small advisory group. The members of this group are Aaron Porter, a past President of the National Union of Students; Dr John Selby, previously Director of Widening Participation at the Higher Education Funding Council for England; and Dr Lee Elliot Major, Research Director at the Sutton Trust. The membership and remit of this group is a matter for the Director himself.

In his guidance to institutions on access agreements published in March 2011, the Director said that he expected that institutions would want to consult prospective and current students when developing and revising their access agreements. He recognised that many institutions already consulted their student unions.

### Regional Growth Fund: Longbridge

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on discussions on the Longbridge Regional Growth Fund bid. [91054]

**Mr Prisk:** The Longbridge Regional Growth Fund bid has been considered by the Ministerial Panel who asked officials to discuss aspects of the application with the applicants. These discussions are progressing well and we hope to be in a position to agree support in outline by the end of January. In parallel officials have commenced discussion with the applicant on the Grant Offer Letter which will specify the conditions which apply to the Regional Growth Fund support.

### Shareholders

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the balance between the voting power of institutional investors and individual shareholders of companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. [91000]

**Mr Davey:** The latest data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that institutional investors hold a large proportion of shares in UK listed companies, relative to individual shareholders. Whereas institutions hold 40% of UK shares, individuals own only 10%.

*Note:*

The definition used for institutional shareholders includes insurance companies, pension funds, unit trusts, investment trusts and 'other financial institutions'.

### Shell

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the announcement on 16 January 2012 of the proposed closure of the Shell Technology Centre in Thornton, what discussions he has had with Shell management on retaining its research and development capability in the UK. [90762]

**Mr Willetts:** Following the announcement of the closure of the site at Thornton, Shell have reaffirmed to officials at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, their commitment to maintaining their research and development profile in the UK and are relocating the remaining 280 product development jobs at Thornton to London and Manchester. Their continued research and development activity in the UK includes research partnerships with a number of UK universities and a partnership with the Energy Technologies Institute on projects to address future energy challenges.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the announcement on 16 January 2012 of the proposed closure of the Shell Technology Centre in Thornton, what assessment he has made of the UK's attractiveness as a location to undertake research and development. [90763]

**Mr Willetts:** The Government are committed to ensuring that we maintain and strengthen the UK's position as one of the most innovative economies in the world. We are absolutely determined to create the right conditions for business investment and growth in research and development and innovation, and we believe that international companies will be keen to take advantage of these conditions.

The latest available Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) data show that in 2009 22% of UK Business Enterprise R&D (BERD) expenditure was financed from abroad. This is more than double the prevailing EU average, and higher than every other country in the OECD database.

In absolute terms, data are not available for more recent years. In 2007 $5.6 million of BERD expenditure in the UK was financed from abroad. This compared to $2.6 million in France in 2007 and $1.6 million in Germany in 2006.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the announcement on 16 January 2012 of the proposed closure of the Shell Technology Centre in Thornton, if he will take steps to improve the UK's attractiveness as a location to undertake research and development. [90764]

**Mr Willetts:** The Government are committed to ensuring that we maintain and strengthen the UK's position as one of the most innovative economies in the world. We are absolutely determined to create the right conditions for business investment and growth in research and development and innovation, and we believe that international companies will be keen to take advantage of these conditions.

To deliver on this we have focused on: creating the most competitive tax system in the G20 by cutting the main rate of corporation tax from 28% to 26% in April and by 2014 it will reach 23%—the lowest rate in the G7 and 5th lowest in the G20; making the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business.

The Government also have a range of policies supporting R and D including significant financial support for business investment, a supportive tax regime; a regulatory regime that is business friendly and modern infrastructure that enables the UK to be internationally competitive.

The recently-published (December 2011) Innovation and Research Strategy for Growth builds on the UK's recognised strengths and sets out how the Government will work with business and the knowledge base to underpin private sector-led growth.

For example, through the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) we will invest over £1 billion in business-led R and D over the current spending review period. By matching these public sector investments with UK and UK-based business, the TSB will have generated a £2 billion programme of investment in innovation in the period 2011-15.

We will continue to support investment in high-technology sectors. Over £200 million will be invested through the TSB to establish a network of elite technology and innovation centres, now branded as Catapults. These will commercialise new and emerging technologies in areas where there are large global market opportunities and a critical mass of UK capability to take advantage.

We have also made significant improvements to the R and D tax credit. The rate for the SME scheme will increase to 225% from April, making it one of the most attractive such schemes in the world. We will also encourage large company research and development by making the R and D tax credit 'above the line' from April 2013.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Charities

**David Morris:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to ensure that the financial needs of charities are considered when establishing a transforming local infrastructure initiative. [90587]

**Mr Hurd:** Through the Transforming Local Infrastructure fund, the Office for Civil Society is making up to £30 million available so that infrastructure organisations are able to provide better support for frontline civil society organisations.

Many of the successful applicants will have a strong emphasis on helping charities to address their financial needs. This will include through supporting fundraising, collaborative working with local business, and providing better training to allow frontline civil society organisations to become more financially astute, such as through better governance and management.

### Charities: Closures

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many charities have closed or deregistered with the Charity Commission since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [91150]

**Mr Hurd:** This is a matter for the Charity Commission. I have, therefore, asked the Commission's chief executive to reply.

*Letter from Nick Allaway, dated 19 January 2012:*

In the Chief Executive's absence, I have been asked to respond to your Written Parliamentary Question on how many charities have closed or deregistered with the Charity Commission since May 2010 [91150].

13,517 charities have been removed from the Register of Charities since 1 May 2010. Charities are removed from the Register for a variety of reasons. For example, a charity may have ceased to exist or operate, or may have merged, incorporated or transferred its funds to another charity.

### Charities: Regulation

**David Morris:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to ensure that any regulatory burdens associated with the operation of the Charity Commission are not passed on to the voluntary sector. [90589]

**Mr Hurd:** In December 2011 the Charity Commission published a strategic plan, setting out how it will respond to the challenge of a reducing budget over the coming years and I am arranging for a copy to be placed in the House Library. The Commission will have a reduced role, while prioritising its core regulatory functions. In all its work, the Commission will encourage charity trustees to take their own decisions as far as possible.

In November 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), appointed my noble Friend the Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts to review the legal and regulatory framework for charities. The review will consider the role and status of the Charity Commission as the sector's regulator. It will also look at reducing the burden of regulation while preserving safeguards that protect the public interest. The review is expected to conclude this summer and a report of its findings will be published and laid in Parliament.

### Childbirth

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the birth rate was in *(a)* Haltemprice and Howden constituency, *(b)* East Yorkshire, *(c)* the Humberside region and *(d)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [91058]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the birth rate was in (a) Haltemprice and Howden constituency, (b) East Yorkshire, (c) the Humberside region and (d) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. 91058

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has been supplied as this is the most useful measure of an area's fertility level. The TFR is the average number of live children that a group of women would each bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.

*Total fertility rate (TFR), selected areas, 2010*

| *Area* | *TFR* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Haltemprice and Howden constituency | 1.75 |
| *(b)* East Yorkshire constituency | 2.02 |
| *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside region | 1.89 |
| *(d)* England and Wales | 2.00 |

### Health

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of variations in the levels of subjective well-being in *(a)* adult males, *(b)* adult females, *(c)* male children and *(d)* female children. [90876]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the what assessment has been made of variations in the levels of subjective well-being in a) adult males, b) adult females, c) male children and d) female children (90876).

On 1 December 2011, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a research report entitled 'Initial investigation into Subjective Well-being from the Opinions Survey' which is available from the following weblink:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/wellbeing/measuring-subjective-wellbeing-in-the-uk/investigation-of-subjective-well-being-data-from-the-ons-opinions-survey/initial-investigation-into-subjective-well-being-from-the-opinions-survey.html

This report provides initial experimental estimates from the ONS Opinions Survey.

Table 1 provides comparisons of the average levels of subjective well-being for adult men and women aged 16 and over between April and August 2011 in Great Britain. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Opinions Survey are subject to sampling variability. Our assessment is that the differences between men and women's average ratings are small and the only difference that is statistically significant (at the 5 per cent level) is for the question that asks about the extent to which people feel that the things they do in their lives are worthwhile.

The ONS is working with a range of stakeholders, including other government departments and from the third sector to develop well-being measures for children and young people as part of the overall measuring National Well-being Programme.

*Table 1: Average (mean) subjective well-being ratings: by sex[1], Great Britain—April to August 2011*

*0 to 10 scale[2]*

| | *Life satisfaction[3]* | *Worthwhile[4]* | *Happy yesterday[5]* | *Anxious yesterday[6]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Men | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 3.3 |
| Women | 7.5 | 7.8 | 7.5 | 3.6 |
| All | 7.4 | 7.6 | 7.4 | 3.4 |

[1] Adults aged 16 and over.
[2] Respondents are asked to provide an answer from 0 ('not at all') to 10 ('completely') for each question.
[3] Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
[4] Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
[5] Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
[6] Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?
*Source*:
April, June, July and August 2011 Opinions Surveys, ONS

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which UK *(a)* mindfulness and wellbeing research centres and *(b)* universities he (i) visited and (ii) corresponded with in developing the Wellbeing Index. [90883]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking which UK (a) mindfulness and wellbeing research centres and (b) universities have been (i) visited and (ii) corresponded with in developing the Wellbeing Index. (90883)

The ONS Measuring National Well-being Programme, led by the National Statistician, aims to develop and publish an accepted and trusted set of National Statistics to help people understand and monitor national well-being. National well-being is more than the sum of individual happiness or individual well-being. To measure national well-being we are capturing the quality of our lives, of which happiness is a part, but also the country's economic performance and environmental and sustainability issues.

The programme is underpinned by a communication and engagement workstream, providing links with Cabinet Office and policy departments, international organisations, the public and other stakeholders. The programme started with a national debate, receiving 34,000 responses, including a number of experts such as academics and research organisations. ONS also held 175 events around the UK, where members of the public joined in at live debates and round table discussions. Further details of the events held, organisations who responded and technical submissions received are available in the supplementary paper "Findings from the National Well-being Debate":

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/well-being/wellbeing-knowledge-bank/understanding-wellbeing/well-being-reports-and-articles.html

The programme is supported by a Technical Advisory Group and a Well-being Advisory Forum, both of which have members from the academic and research communities, full membership lists are available here:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/user-guidance/well-being/index.html

ONS are currently in the middle of a targeted three month formal consultation, on a draft set of domains and measures. It began on 31 October 2011 and will close on 23 January 2012. The consultation is available on-line:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/consultations/open-consultations/measuring-national-well-being/index.html

ONS will continue to engage with organisations, policy makers, academic/expert leads, think tanks, third-sector, business and interested others to get their views. This will ensure that UK well-being measures are relevant and impartial and improve our understanding of the UK's society.

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to reply to the letters of 31 October and 5 December 2011 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding a constituent, Miss Helmi Okpara. [90935]

**Mr Harper:** I replied to the hon. Member's letters on 19 January 2012.

## Perinatal Mortality

**Mr David Davis:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the perinatal mortality rate was for children in *(a)* Haltemprice and Howden constituency, *(b)* East Yorkshire, *(c)* the Humberside region and *(d)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [91057]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the perinatal mortality rate was for children in (a) Haltemprice and Howden constituency, (b) East Yorkshire, (c) the Humberside region and (d) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [91057].

The latest available figures for perinatal mortality are for the year 2010. The following table provides the perinatal mortality rates for East Riding of Yorkshire unitary authority, Yorkshire and the Humber region and England and Wales in 2010.

Annual sub-national data on the number of deaths registered in England and Wales is available on the Office for National Statistics website at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-27478

Figures for perinatal mortality for East Riding of Yorkshire unitary authority and Yorkshire and the Humber region in 2010 can be found in table 1a of the linked publication.

Perinatal mortality rates for the Haltemprice and Howden parliamentary constituency have not been given in line with the current ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics, available at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/best-practice/disclosure-control-policy-for-birth-and-death-statistics/index.html

*Table 1. Perinatal mortality rates[1] with 95% confidence limits[2] for East Riding of Yorkshire unitary authority, Yorkshire and the Humber region and England and Wales[3], 2010*

| | | *95% confidence limits* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Perinatal mortality rate* | *Lower limit* | *Upper limit* |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 9.3 | 6.2 | 13.4 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 8.5 | 7.8 | 9.2 |
| England and Wales | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.6 |

[1] Perinatal deaths per 1,000 live births and stillbirths.
[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.
[3] Figures are based on boundaries as of 2011. Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents, figures for East Riding of Yorkshire unitary authority, Yorkshire and the Humber region are for deaths of babies usually resident in those areas.

## Personal Savings

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the average level of *(a)* household and *(b)* personal savings. [90421]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2012:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimates have been made of the average level of (a) household and (b) personal savings (90421).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not specifically publish the estimates you request. However, estimates from the Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) can provide some related estimates. WAS provides estimates of total financial wealth of private households in Great Britain. Gross financial wealth includes formal and informal financial assets of adults, children's assets, and endowments for the purpose of mortgage repayments. Details of financial liabilities is also collected and subtracted from gross financial wealth to produce estimates of net financial wealth.

At present only data relating to 2006/08 are available, equivalent data for 2008/10 are due to be published in May 2012.

*Household financial wealth[1]: Summary statistics Great Britain 2006-08*

£

| | Mean | Median |
|---|---|---|
| *Those with financial wealth[1]* | | |
| Gross financial wealth | 45,900 | 8,600 |
| Financial liabilities | 7,200 | 2,700 |
| Net financial wealth | 40,800 | 5,700 |
| *Whole population* | | |
| Gross financial wealth | 43,500 | 7,200 |
| Net financial wealth | 40,000 | 5,200 |

[1] Excludes households without this type of asset or liability (zeros).

*Source:*

Wealth and Assets Survey Office for National Statistics

These data are taken from Chapter 4 of the Wealth in Great Britain, 2006/08 report, where more detailed figures are also available.

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/was/wealth-in-great-britain/main-results-from-the-wealth-and-assets-survey-2006-2008/report--wealth-in-great-britain-.pdf

No data have currently been published on individual wealth from this source. More recent data on total financial assets held by households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) are available from the United Kingdom Economic Accounts. In 2011 quarter 3, the latest period for which data are available, the total level of financial assets (excluding insurance technical reserves) held by households and NPISH was £1,994.7 billion.

The coverage of this data differs in a number of respects from that shown above from the Wealth and Assets Survey. In particular, this figure includes asset holdings by bodies such as charities, universities, trades union and political and faith based institutions which are classified to the NPISH sector, and these are not separately identified from the asset holdings of households. It is therefore not possible to provide an estimate of total financial assets on a per household basis.

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/naa1-rd/united-kingdom-economic-accounts/q3-2011/index.html

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Apprentices

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, how many apprentices are employed by the Church Commissioners. [90490]

**Tony Baldry:** There are no apprentices currently employed by the Church Commissioners or the Church of England. However, the Church does provide a space for long-term employment and opportunities for skilled professionals and their students to undertake apprenticeships, training, or conservation work on and within its buildings, stone/carpentry yards and stained glass workshops and in choir and organ schools.

### Church Commissioners: Anniversaries

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners whether the Church Commissioners plan to discuss with the House of Bishops the preparation of events to mark the 350th anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer in 2012. [9203]

**Tony Baldry:** The Prayer Book Society will be coordinating many of the events during 2012 to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and Lambeth Palace Library will be holding another of their summer exhibitions this year, the subject of which will be the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Other events will be announced throughout the year and local churches and Cathedrals are being encouraged to take part in the celebrations.

### Church of England Rural Affairs Committee

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, when he last attended a meeting of the Church of England Rural Affairs Committee; what assessment he has made of its work; and if he will make a statement. [90902]

**Tony Baldry:** I have not yet attended a meeting of the Rural Affairs Group, but I am regularly briefed on its work.

The Rural Affairs Group of the General Synod is a sub-group of the Mission and Public Affairs Council of the Archbishops' Council. It is chaired by the Bishop of Knaresborough and meets three times each year.

The group aims to assist other departments of the Archbishops' Council to understand and address the needs of rural parishes; primarily the Ministry Division, the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division and the Education Division. The Rural Affairs Group also organises information and briefing meetings on rural issues at General Synod.

In the last six months the group's work has focused on: Bovine TB, the National Planning Policy Framework, the consultation on the Rural Communities Policy Unit within DEFRA, resourcing and training for the rural church, the future of rural primary schools, global food and farming issues, CAP reform and pastoral ministry in rural areas.

### Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what discussions there were at the last General Synod of the Church of England on progress on repairs to Church of England churches. [11095]

**Tony Baldry:** The Church of England estimates its 16,000 parish church buildings, 12,500 of which are listed, face annual repair bills totalling £178.5 million. The Church further estimates that over £50 million of these repairs are not undertaken.

The Government's financial support amounts to the Church of England's share of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, 71% of £12 million or £8.5 million, and a similar share of the Heritage Lottery Fund's £25 million annual fund for high level repairs to church buildings. Even though the Church of England's 12,500 listed church buildings remain the most significant and remarkable group of listed buildings in the country, the balance of the costs has to be found by the parishes themselves.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what discussions the Church Commissioners have had with Ministers on the continuation of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme; and what progress has been made in those discussions. [14075]

**Tony Baldry:** There were no discussions at the last meeting of the General Synod in July 2011 about the progress on repairs to churches. The Church of England's Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division estimates its 16,000 parish church buildings, 12,500 of which are listed, face annual repair bills totalling £178.5 million. It further estimates that over £50 million of these repairs are not undertaken. Financial support from the Government amounts to the Church of England's share of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme: 71% of £12 million, or £8.5 million, and a similar share of the Heritage Lottery Fund's £25 million annual fund for high level repairs to church buildings. The balance of the costs has to be found by the parishes themselves.

### Churches: Rural Areas

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what steps the Church Commissioners plan to take to assist rural parishes; and if he will make a statement. [82610]

**Tony Baldry:** The Church Commissioners' parish mission and ministry support (£46.8 million in 2010) is targeted on areas of greatest need and opportunity rather than specifically at urban or rural areas. The majority of this is in the form of grants to lower income dioceses who in turn make the decisions about the deployment of funds locally.

There are two more 'deliberate' funding streams, i.e. those which support mission development and church development in new housing and other development areas. Both of these to a greater or lesser extent will benefit rural and urban settings but, again, that is not a specific funding criterion. The Church Commissioners other, untargeted funds, play a part in helping the Church maintain a presence in every part of the nation regardless of relative local resources and parishes in less populous, rural areas will sometimes rely more heavily on this than others. It should be remembered that, overall, the CofE is largely self-funding.

The Church of England also has a network of Diocesan Rural officers, and a National Rural Officer who assist with development of the mission and worship of rural churches through the provision of advice, training and resources.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Travellers: Caravan Sites

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to produce new guidance for local authorities on Gypsy and Traveller sites. [91065]

**Robert Neill:** We are considering the responses to the consultation on our draft planning policy for Traveller sites and intend to publish the new policy as soon as possible. In the mean-time, decision makers are entitled to have regard to the fact that it is proposed to withdraw the circulars and replace them with the Government's draft new policy.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the value of the creative industries to the economy in terms of *(a)* gross domestic product contribution, *(b)* growth and *(c)* jobs. [90774]

**Mr Vaizey:** The latest 'Creative Industries Economic Estimates' bulletin was released in December 2011, in which the contribution to the economy of the creative industries is estimated covering gross value added (GVA), employment, exports in services and number of businesses.

The creative industries as a whole were estimated to contribute £36.3 billion, or 2.9%, to the UK's GVA in 2009.

Relative to the UK's total GVA, the creative industries GVA has increased by 0.07% in 2009 (from 2.82% in 2008), but in absolute terms the GVA reduced by 1% from 2008 (£36.6 billion to £36.3 billion). Due to changes in the data source's methodology, growth cannot be estimated prior to 2008.

1.5 million people are employed in either the Creative Industries or in a creative role in another industry (5.14% of UK employment). This is a small increase on 2008 (1.44 million employed and 4.99% of UK employment).

The full creative industries economic estimates statistical release is available on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8682.aspx

### Diamond Jubilee 2012: Voluntary Organisations

**Alun Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to make an announcement on the award for outstanding voluntary organisations during the diamond jubilee year. [90434]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

I expect to make an announcement by the end of February 2012.

### Digital Broadcasting

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage licensed use of programme making and special events equipment after digital switchover; and if he will make a statement. [88908]

**Mr Vaizey:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

> "The Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 prohibits the installation or use of wireless telegraphy equipment unless an appropriate licence has been obtained from Ofcom. For programme making and special events (PMSE) JFMG, who issue Wireless Telegraphy Act licences on Ofcom's behalf, are actively issuing licences in Channel 38. The funding scheme for channel 69 has provided a substantial contribution to the cost of migration to channel 38 to licensed users only. JFMG continue to make information available on our behalf on the licence options for PMSE users."

### EU Law

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90707]

**John Penrose:** The Commission Decision of 10 October 2011 (Decision 2011/667/EU) on modalities for co-ordinated application of the rules on enforcement, with regard to mobile satellite services (MSS), is currently being considered by the Department. It may require the amendment of the Authorisation of Frequency Use for the Provision of Mobile Satellite Services (European Union) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/672), which implement the previous Decisions in relation to MSS. No decisions as to whether UK legislation must be amended have yet been taken, and therefore I am unable to provide an estimate of the cost to the public purse and the private sector. The Decision came into force on 10 October 2011.

I am not aware of any other EU legislation currently requiring transposition for which my Department is responsible.

### Ofcom

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the use of white space devices; and if he will make a statement. [88910]

**Mr Vaizey:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

> "Ofcom is in the process of developing regulations to enable white space devices to operate in the Ultra-High Frequency (UHF) TV band without causing harmful interference to existing services. Existing services include digital terrestrial television and wireless microphones used in the programme making and special events. Ofcom is working with stakeholders to finalise the necessary regulations which we aim to be in place by the end of 2012."

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with Ofcom on the future use of 700MHz band; and if he will make a statement. [88911]

**Mr Vaizey:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

> Ofcom has had early discussions with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on the potential implications of the future European harmonisation of the 700 MHz band for mobile broadband use. Ofcom intends to issue a consultation on this matter during the first half of 2012.

### Radio Frequencies: Audio Equipment

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* the availability of, *(b)* the market for and *(c)* the price of radio microphones and similar technologies following the sale of channels 31 to 37 and 61 to 69; and if he will make a statement. [88909]

**Mr Vaizey:** The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

> "While Ofcom makes spectrum available, the supply of physical equipment (as in other sectors) is a matter for the commercial sector. No assessment has been made of the availability, market for, or price of wireless microphones. There are a number of competing suppliers of programme making and special event's (PMSE) equipment active in the UK, who have been kept informed in a timely manner throughout the digital switchover process so that decisions on market demand and equipment can be made."

### Telephones

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of vulnerable people unnecessarily making lengthy calls to premium rate telephone numbers. [91032]

**Mr Vaizey:** Ofcom has responsibility and accountability for the regulation of premium rate services (PRS), under the terms of the Communications Act 2003, and has designated PhonepayPlus to deliver the day-to-day regulation of PRS. Consumers, including those who are vulnerable, are protected through their code of practice, which includes rules on the presentation of the cost of calling, minimum font size and position of pricing information. The maximum penalty for a single breach of their code is £250,000. All PRS providers are required to comply and PhonepayPlus has regularly used its powers to disconnect service providers, including barring them. Where services might be causing substantial harm to consumers, including groups such as children, PhonepayPlus has an emergency procedure, which enables them to urgently investigate and shut down services. It also has a website:

http://www.phonebrain.org.uk

aimed specifically at young people to educate them about the costs involved and where to go if they have a problem.

### Third Sector

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* The Art Room, *(b)* the National Portrait Gallery, *(c)* Mountain Rescue England, *(d)* the English Schools Swimming Association, *(e)* the Scout Association and *(f)* Missing Links UK in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [90746]

**Mr Vaizey:** This Department has provided grant in aid funding of £7.577 million in 2010-11 and £7.398 million in 2011-12 to the National Portrait Gallery. It has not directly funded any other organisations on this list.

### Tourism: Northumberland

**Guy Opperman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* support he is providing to encourage and *(b)* assessment he has made of opportunities for rural tourism in Northumberland. [90581]

**John Penrose:** The recently announced Regional Growth Fund Project, 'Growing Tourism Locally,' which is managed and coordinated by the National Tourist Board, VisitEngland, will aim to stimulate increased visitor spend across England, particularly in areas that are facing challenging economic times, but which have tourism growth potential. Northumberland is one of the areas which will benefit from this project.

Last November, the Government also announced that they would invest £25 million in promoting and developing rural tourism. VisitEngland is working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Natural England on rural economic growth, in particular, opportunities made available through the Rural Development Programme England for areas such as Northumberland.

In addition, the Government recently announced a major initiative to support both international and domestic tourism promotion. Including money from the GREAT campaign and private sector support, VisitBritain will invest around £127 million in a new international marketing programme. Over the next four years, this is expected to deliver 4.6 million extra visitors from overseas, £2.27 billion in extra visitor spend and over 50,000 job opportunities. VisitEngland's domestic campaign is supported by a £4 million investment from the Olympic budget and is expected to deliver around 12,500 new job opportunities and £500 million in extra visitor spend over three years. This promotion will include an invitation to the industry to join up in a 20.12% special offer incentive for consumers, which will be launched later this year.

## DEFENCE

### Defence Equipment: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to prevent corrosion in its *(a)* weapons, *(b)* fleets of ships and vehicles and *(c)* infrastructure. [89851]

**Peter Luff:** There is no single policy to counter corrosion of Defence equipment infrastructure assets. Corrosion prevention is included, where applicable, as a manufacturing requirement in Defence contracts. Extensive trials and testing for corrosion protection will also be undertaken where appropriate, prior to an equipment entering service.

For in-service equipment and infrastructure, the requirements for corrosion protection and ongoing maintenance are detailed in a wide range of publications including Technical Bulletins, Joint Service Publications, Defence Standards and NATO Standardisation Agreements. These may take into account the environment in which a particular equipment type may be deployed and cover all aspects of corrosion prevention including the use of protective coatings, inspection and maintenance regimes, methods of packaging and storage to be used. Corrosion prevention measures which may be deployed range from cathodic (electrolytic) prevention and the application of specialised anti-corrosive paints, to simply covering equipment when not in use, to protect against the corrosive forces of nature.

## EDUCATION

### Academies

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons officials from his Department are visiting schools in connection with academy status; and under which criteria such visits are being made. [89445]

**Mr Gibb:** Department for Education officials visit schools in connection with Academy status for a wide range of reasons; this includes to support those schools considering, or in the process of becoming Academies and to support and broker Academy solutions for those schools that have a history of results below the National Floor Standards, or are in an Ofsted category.

### Contact Orders: Grandparents

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to change the process by which grandparents can gain access to any of their grandchildren to whom they have no access. [89366]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 16 January 2012]:* The Government will shortly publish their response to the Family Justice Review which considered a range of important issues including how families make contact arrangements after separation. The Government response will set out how we plan to take forward policy proposals for reforming the family justice system so that it better serves children and families involved with proceedings.

### EU Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which EU *(a)* Directives, *(b)* Regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89685]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education is not responsible for implementing any EU legislation which currently requires transposition into UK law. The Department has not, therefore, made an estimate of the cost of this legislation for the public purse or private sector.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department holds information on the EU regulations in its policy areas of responsibility which have not been implemented in *(a)* France and *(b)* Germany; on which dates those regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90691]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department holds no such information in respect of implementation of EU regulations in France or Germany.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which EU regulations his Department has not implemented; on what date the regulations became EU law; and if he will make a statement. [90705]

**Mr Gibb:** There are no EU regulations in force for which the Department for Education has lead responsibility and which have not been implemented.

### Free School Meals

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what happens to the funding allocated for free school meals within a local authority area that is unclaimed by pupils. [91155]

**Mr Gibb:** Local authorities do not receive specified funding for the costs of free school meals from the Government. The cost of free school meals is met by local authorities from their overall schools budget. Local authorities and schools determine how much is allocated for free school meals based on the circumstances in their area, and how to use any funding that is unclaimed by pupils.

### Free Schools

**Mr Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he has made on enabling proposed special free schools to be set up where clear parental demand exists but there is reluctance from the local authority. [90342]

**Mr Gibb:** The first special free schools are being set up by passionate and talented groups who want to improve state education provision and choice for families with children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. We hope that many more such groups will come forward with applications for special free schools proposing to open in September 2013. Applications can be submitted between 13 and 24 February 2012.

### GCE A-Level: Mathematics

**Pat Glass:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students sat exams in A-level *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* further mathematics in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [85457]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

The information requested for 2011 is available in the Statistical First Release "GCE/Applied GCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2010/11 (Provisional)" Table 12a. This publication is available online at the following address:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001035/index.shtml

*Number of students aged 16-18[1] entered for exams in A-level mathematics and further mathematics, by local authority and region; Year: 2007-11[2]; Coverage: England*

| | Mathematics | | | | | Further Mathematics | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* |
| *North East* | 1,464 | 1,651 | 1,935 | 2,128 | 2,269 | 164 | 212 | 216 | 285 | 272 |
| Darlington | 105 | 136 | 149 | 175 | 183 | 15 | 17 | 18 | 27 | 13 |
| Durham | 190 | 197 | 239 | 310 | 295 | 11 | 29 | 25 | 46 | 37 |
| Gateshead | 128 | 120 | 140 | 165 | 174 | 9 | 13 | 7 | 11 | 21 |
| Hartlepool | 45 | 59 | 62 | 77 | 78 | 6 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 25 |
| Middlesbrough | 74 | 70 | 98 | 78 | 89 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 17 | 11 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 140 | 156 | 211 | 210 | 235 | 11 | 9 | 15 | 21 | 18 |
| North Tyneside | 107 | 108 | 127 | 151 | 166 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 13 |
| Northumberland | 240 | 278 | 275 | 300 | 333 | 43 | 34 | 41 | 28 | 33 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 159 | 191 | 196 | 186 | 217 | 27 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 39 |
| South Tyneside | 65 | 36 | 73 | 72 | 92 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 13 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 138 | 194 | 236 | 233 | 251 | 13 | 27 | 25 | 37 | 33 |
| Sunderland | 73 | 106 | 129 | 171 | 156 | 15 | 17 | 12 | 28 | 16 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| *North West* | 5,122 | 5,599 | 6,283 | 7,040 | 7,663 | 582 | 692 | 804 | 926 | 1,007 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 116 | 107 | 134 | 137 | 131 | 13 | 9 | 20 | 9 | 15 |
| Blackpool | 104 | 121 | 139 | 159 | 168 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
| Bolton | 178 | 158 | 200 | 215 | 232 | 19 | 12 | 23 | 16 | 20 |
| Bury | 170 | 185 | 222 | 253 | 255 | 24 | 25 | 29 | 49 | 51 |
| Cheshire[3] | 702 | 727 | — | — | — | 96 | 94 | — | — | — |
| Cheshire East | — | — | 393 | 441 | 473 | — | — | 63 | 71 | 72 |

*Number of students aged 16-18[1] entered for exams in A-level mathematics and further mathematics, by local authority and region; Year: 2007-11[2]; Coverage: England*

| | Mathematics | | | | | Further Mathematics | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* |
| Cheshire West and Chester | — | — | 431 | 433 | 451 | — | — | 55 | 52 | 65 |
| Cumbria | 445 | 488 | 480 | 559 | 633 | 43 | 66 | 75 | 67 | 98 |
| Halton | 39 | 33 | 26 | 33 | 32 | 4 | 5 | 0 | * | * |
| Knowsley | 20 | 40 | 31 | 23 | 20 | * | 0 | 0 | * | 0 |
| Lancashire | 805 | 827 | 1,014 | 1,169 | 1,363 | 88 | 83 | 111 | 146 | 157 |
| Liverpool | 275 | 343 | 353 | 423 | 435 | 13 | 34 | 37 | 51 | 51 |
| Manchester | 262 | 331 | 378 | 421 | 475 | 26 | 47 | 33 | 63 | 46 |
| Oldham | 178 | 190 | 229 | 266 | 246 | 22 | 27 | 31 | 26 | 29 |
| Rochdale | 53 | 60 | 52 | 57 | 40 | * | 5 | * | * | * |
| Salford | 102 | 95 | 129 | 103 | 136 | 5 | 8 | * | 9 | 12 |
| Sefton | 233 | 267 | 267 | 318 | 366 | 29 | 33 | 30 | 30 | 46 |
| St. Helens | 203 | 229 | 246 | 236 | 332 | 38 | 44 | 34 | 40 | 59 |
| Stockport | 222 | 231 | 214 | 269 | 260 | 18 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 35 |
| Tameside | 107 | 132 | 130 | 155 | 149 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 23 | 20 |
| Trafford | 257 | 297 | 317 | 351 | 351 | 46 | 31 | 44 | 44 | 56 |
| Warrington | 123 | 128 | 179 | 181 | 204 | 18 | 16 | 26 | 31 | 27 |
| Wigan | 283 | 334 | 413 | 460 | 464 | 35 | 58 | 75 | 102 | 96 |
| Wirral | 245 | 276 | 306 | 378 | 447 | 18 | 35 | 46 | 40 | 35 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | 3,581 | 3,704 | 4,099 | 4,477 | 4,854 | 488 | 456 | 507 | 595 | 651 |
| Barnsley | 36 | 59 | 30 | 57 | 53 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 | * |
| Bradford | 256 | 270 | 300 | 325 | 369 | 27 | 24 | 26 | 33 | 35 |
| Calderdale | 120 | 130 | 158 | 145 | 199 | 11 | 12 | 23 | 21 | 24 |
| Doncaster | 222 | 211 | 237 | 258 | 296 | 26 | 28 | 29 | 34 | 33 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 248 | 253 | 244 | 268 | 311 | 28 | 12 | 27 | 26 | 33 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of | 127 | 127 | 141 | 158 | 173 | 10 | 17 | 16 | 24 | 38 |
| Kirklees | 347 | 347 | 396 | 444 | 531 | 34 | 37 | 39 | 52 | 48 |
| Leeds | 509 | 488 | 528 | 643 | 642 | 80 | 58 | 62 | 90 | 81 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 108 | 98 | 119 | 87 | 111 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | * |
| North Lincolnshire | 173 | 196 | 193 | 206 | 207 | 42 | 46 | 39 | 50 | 58 |
| North Yorkshire | 606 | 614 | 695 | 725 | 766 | 85 | 97 | 91 | 93 | 118 |
| Rotherham | 199 | 217 | 241 | 305 | 317 | 29 | 18 | 20 | 31 | 48 |
| Sheffield | 320 | 368 | 393 | 409 | 440 | 39 | 34 | 46 | 58 | 44 |
| Wakefield | 154 | 146 | 247 | 258 | 248 | 19 | 14 | 27 | 26 | 36 |
| York | 156 | 180 | 177 | 189 | 191 | 41 | 42 | 44 | 37 | 40 |
| *East Midlands* | 3,799 | 4,157 | 4,583 | 4,803 | 5,373 | 416 | 484 | 527 | 710 | 669 |
| Derby | 168 | 188 | 246 | 270 | 250 | 13 | 25 | 22 | 41 | 36 |
| Derbyshire | 549 | 603 | 629 | 593 | 682 | 60 | 77 | 77 | 91 | 92 |
| Leicester | 349 | 402 | 417 | 466 | 603 | 30 | 31 | 20 | 33 | 40 |
| Leicestershire[4] | 861 | 931 | 978 | 1,019 | 1,118 | 83 | 91 | 110 | 138 | 129 |
| Lincolnshire | 592 | 652 | 684 | 799 | 866 | 87 | 98 | 102 | 139 | 133 |
| Northamptonshire | 502 | 519 | 624 | 629 | 673 | 58 | 62 | 65 | 91 | 80 |
| Nottingham | 257 | 250 | 325 | 334 | 406 | 33 | 25 | 41 | 60 | 70 |
| Nottinghamshire | 521 | 612 | 680 | 693 | 761 | 52 | 75 | 90 | 117 | 87 |
| Rutland[5] | — | — | — | — | 14 | — | — | — | — | * |
| *West Midlands* | 4,148 | 4,538 | 5,077 | 5,446 | 5,998 | 383 | 505 | 628 | 614 | 668 |
| Birmingham | 889 | 1,043 | 1,097 | 1,194 | 1,376 | 81 | 95 | 108 | 109 | 111 |
| Coventry | 198 | 217 | 269 | 269 | 307 | 18 | 35 | 44 | 28 | 45 |
| Dudley | 304 | 368 | 337 | 355 | 403 | 29 | 22 | 41 | 28 | 35 |
| Herefordshire | 165 | 166 | 241 | 195 | 232 | 8 | 19 | 23 | 27 | 19 |
| Sandwell | 57 | 56 | 71 | 79 | 120 | 4 | * | 3 | * | * |
| Shropshire | 242 | 286 | 297 | 318 | 311 | 26 | 29 | 41 | 37 | 30 |
| Solihull | 302 | 319 | 364 | 393 | 451 | 22 | 39 | 54 | 58 | 53 |
| Staffordshire | 497 | 516 | 624 | 608 | 701 | 32 | 53 | 86 | 75 | 97 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 127 | 117 | 132 | 150 | 137 | 14 | * | 14 | 19 | * |
| Telford and Wrekin | 157 | 154 | 173 | 190 | 222 | 30 | 26 | 29 | 29 | 34 |
| Walsall | 203 | 208 | 257 | 313 | 297 | 13 | 30 | 40 | 36 | 32 |

*Number of students aged 16-18[1] entered for exams in A-level mathematics and further mathematics, by local authority and region; Year: 2007-11[2]; Coverage: England*

| | Mathematics | | | | | Further Mathematics | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* |
| Warwickshire | 507 | 534 | 616 | 704 | 749 | 62 | 68 | 73 | 85 | 117 |
| Wolverhampton | 178 | 193 | 152 | 217 | 211 | 19 | 28 | 18 | * | 24 |
| Worcestershire | 322 | 361 | 447 | 461 | 481 | 25 | 46 | 54 | 69 | 58 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| *East of England* | 4,507 | 5,001 | 5,453 | 6,026 | 6,537 | 628 | 771 | 802 | 933 | 1,013 |
| Bedford | — | — | 174 | 193 | 219 | — | — | 18 | 19 | 34 |
| Bedfordshire[6] | 305 | 311 | — | — | — | 23 | 30 | — | — | — |
| Bedfordshire, Central | — | — | 198 | 210 | 235 | — | — | 21 | 19 | 27 |
| Cambridgeshire | 582 | 684 | 640 | 697 | 768 | 88 | 130 | 104 | 144 | 154 |
| Essex | 994 | 1,053 | 1,261 | 1,365 | 1,487 | 129 | 157 | 165 | 176 | 186 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,218 | 1,403 | 1,555 | 1,647 | 1,788 | 192 | 209 | 252 | 258 | 292 |
| Luton | 120 | 146 | 174 | 212 | 225 | 13 | 22 | 16 | 28 | 30 |
| Norfolk | 490 | 532 | 482 | 686 | 671 | 75 | 92 | 94 | 123 | 120 |
| Peterborough | 106 | 122 | 172 | 150 | 181 | 11 | 19 | 29 | 12 | 13 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 173 | 186 | 193 | 237 | 291 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 34 | 47 |
| Suffolk | 461 | 475 | 515 | 513 | 540 | 62 | 73 | 71 | 99 | 91 |
| Thurrock | 58 | 89 | 89 | 116 | 132 | 10 | 14 | 8 | 21 | 19 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| *London* | 6,872 | 7,726 | 9,170 | 9,896 | 11,060 | 552 | 725 | 892 | 1,138 | 1,287 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Inner London* | 1,498 | 1,708 | 1,964 | 2,173 | 2,561 | 113 | 158 | 163 | 236 | 283 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| *City of London* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Camden | 129 | 153 | 206 | 182 | 207 | 12 | 25 | 19 | 18 | 33 |
| Hackney | 38 | 58 | 53 | 55 | 151 | * | 4 | * | 3 | 8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 167 | 206 | 207 | 220 | 247 | 15 | 13 | 16 | 15 | 22 |
| Haringey | 67 | 92 | 111 | 141 | 135 | * | 8 | 11 | 15 | 17 |
| Islington | 56 | 70 | 99 | 97 | 134 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 15 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 99 | 111 | 112 | 131 | 176 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 15 |
| Lambeth | 57 | 63 | 69 | 76 | 88 | 3 | 5 | * | 5 | 8 |
| Lewisham | 201 | 184 | 198 | 239 | 274 | 20 | 17 | 19 | 41 | 42 |
| Newham | 165 | 179 | 183 | 217 | 241 | 6 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 20 |
| Southwark | 49 | 48 | 51 | 73 | 72 | 7 | 3 | * | 8 | 9 |
| Tower Hamlets | 92 | 104 | 137 | 148 | 196 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 16 | 24 |
| Wandsworth | 222 | 266 | 322 | 373 | 388 | 19 | 21 | 27 | 57 | 40 |
| Westminster | 156 | 174 | 216 | 221 | 252 | 9 | 19 | 16 | 24 | 30 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Outer London* | 5,374 | 6,018 | 7,206 | 7,723 | 8,499 | 439 | 567 | 729 | 902 | 1,004 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 83 | 96 | 117 | 128 | 163 | * | * | 13 | 14 | 22 |
| Barnet | 694 | 765 | 921 | 916 | 957 | 37 | 60 | 90 | 98 | 116 |
| Bexley | 205 | 224 | 278 | 263 | 333 | 9 | 27 | 30 | 32 | 28 |
| Brent | 321 | 410 | 433 | 471 | 537 | 30 | 42 | 50 | 51 | 62 |
| Bromley | 410 | 432 | 560 | 580 | 592 | 56 | 77 | 101 | 115 | 132 |
| Croydon | 190 | 215 | 257 | 274 | 313 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 24 | 18 |
| Ealing | 196 | 225 | 265 | 331 | 374 | 15 | 8 | 22 | 40 | 55 |
| Enfield | 350 | 378 | 419 | 439 | 528 | 27 | 32 | 28 | 41 | 45 |
| Greenwich | 99 | 102 | 138 | 153 | 179 | 5 | * | 5 | 22 | 21 |
| Harrow | 289 | 371 | 455 | 521 | 625 | 30 | 44 | 48 | 62 | 69 |
| Havering | 281 | 286 | 377 | 326 | 401 | 25 | 28 | 35 | 40 | 32 |
| Hillingdon | 258 | 292 | 327 | 349 | 387 | 13 | 20 | 16 | 24 | 29 |
| Hounslow | 224 | 273 | 335 | 351 | 395 | 13 | 11 | 26 | 33 | 39 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 324 | 352 | 439 | 458 | 456 | 37 | 49 | 59 | 75 | 58 |
| Merton | 61 | 69 | 96 | 69 | 99 | * | * | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Redbridge | 539 | 597 | 716 | 821 | 865 | 15 | 24 | 44 | 72 | 105 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 176 | 194 | 213 | 267 | 196 | 16 | 18 | 24 | 26 | 15 |
| Sutton | 438 | 463 | 581 | 626 | 673 | 80 | 79 | 86 | 94 | 116 |
| Waltham Forest | 236 | 274 | 279 | 380 | 426 | 15 | 27 | 35 | 36 | 33 |

*Number of students aged 16-18[1] entered for exams in A-level mathematics and further mathematics, by local authority and region; Year: 2007-11[2]; Coverage: England*

| | Mathematics | | | | | Further Mathematics | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* |
| *South East* | 7,882 | 8,371 | 9,439 | 10,485 | 11,492 | 1,073 | 1,261 | 1,384 | 1,597 | 1,713 |
| Bracknell Forest | 73 | 89 | 90 | 104 | 120 | 9 | 8 | 16 | 24 | 19 |
| Brighton and Hove | 238 | 207 | 282 | 261 | 322 | 28 | 19 | 32 | 47 | 46 |
| Buckinghamshire | 849 | 906 | 1,024 | 1,083 | 1,173 | 140 | 171 | 201 | 223 | 204 |
| East Sussex | 304 | 314 | 331 | 389 | 399 | 39 | 41 | 40 | 48 | 45 |
| Hampshire | 1,562 | 1,565 | 1,787 | 2,097 | 2,296 | 209 | 250 | 280 | 308 | 348 |
| Isle of Wight | 46 | 61 | 61 | 69 | 72 | * | 6 | 11 | 7 | 10 |
| Kent | 1,156 | 1,301 | 1,402 | 1,480 | 1,576 | 151 | 189 | 161 | 196 | 211 |
| Medway | 222 | 207 | 234 | 257 | 291 | 30 | 28 | 25 | 28 | 46 |
| Milton Keynes | 150 | 174 | 191 | 218 | 235 | 22 | 25 | 19 | 23 | 34 |
| Oxfordshire | 627 | 638 | 687 | 752 | 901 | 124 | 128 | 104 | 124 | 139 |
| Portsmouth | 16 | 30 | 18 | 36 | 24 | * | 7 | * | 11 | 3 |
| Reading | 170 | 192 | 224 | 254 | 249 | 28 | 42 | 49 | 52 | 50 |
| Slough | 206 | 257 | 297 | 327 | 351 | 16 | 17 | 21 | 38 | 42 |
| Southampton | 79 | 95 | 90 | 128 | 191 | 7 | 14 | * | 8 | 23 |
| Surrey | 1,070 | 1,115 | 1,311 | 1,459 | 1,670 | 129 | 143 | 198 | 219 | 245 |
| West Berkshire | 183 | 226 | 264 | 260 | 243 | 21 | 37 | 37 | 43 | 48 |
| West Sussex | 621 | 680 | 753 | 886 | 906 | 76 | 96 | 122 | 145 | 149 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 150 | 129 | 165 | 190 | 200 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 24 | 27 |
| Wokingham | 160 | 185 | 228 | 235 | 273 | 27 | 22 | 32 | 29 | 24 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| *South West* | 4,084 | 4,337 | 4,661 | 5,206 | 5,452 | 525 | 596 | 675 | 761 | 763 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 138 | 157 | 168 | 220 | 204 | 15 | 18 | 28 | 27 | 40 |
| Bournemouth | 110 | 94 | 103 | 125 | 131 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 15 | 13 |
| Bristol, City of | 193 | 200 | 271 | 280 | 331 | 21 | 33 | 42 | 43 | 35 |
| Cornwall | 360 | 414 | 374 | 477 | 454 | 50 | 62 | 67 | 72 | 50 |
| Devon | 449 | 466 | 518 | 557 | 592 | 61 | 68 | 64 | 68 | 81 |
| Dorset | 342 | 353 | 427 | 464 | 446 | 56 | 64 | 67 | 83 | 76 |
| Gloucestershire | 615 | 730 | 652 | 781 | 862 | 75 | 91 | 100 | 109 | 123 |
| North Somerset | 154 | 141 | 225 | 237 | 236 | 19 | 20 | 22 | 40 | 42 |
| Plymouth | 168 | 188 | 193 | 234 | 237 | 23 | 17 | 20 | 45 | 36 |
| Poole | 144 | 198 | 204 | 237 | 227 | 25 | 28 | 44 | 44 | 47 |
| Somerset | 423 | 483 | 485 | 534 | 543 | 67 | 75 | 66 | 83 | 74 |
| South Gloucestershire | 203 | 188 | 209 | 233 | 271 | 24 | 24 | 35 | 30 | 32 |
| Swindon | 229 | 217 | 206 | 216 | 219 | 21 | 20 | 33 | 21 | 24 |
| Torbay | 143 | 144 | 163 | 153 | 148 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 11 | 14 |
| Wiltshire | 413 | 364 | 463 | 458 | 551 | 48 | 46 | 58 | 70 | 76 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total (Maintained[7] Sector) | 41,459 | 45,084 | 50,700 | 55,507 | 60,698 | 4,811 | 5,702 | 6,435 | 7,559 | 8,043 |

* = Indicates figures have been suppressed if less than 3, secondary suppression has also been applied where a single suppression would cause an aggregated total to be disclosive.

'—' = Indicates no data.

[1] Age at the start of the academic year, eg for 2010/11 age at 31 August 2010.

[2] 2011 figures are provisional, all other years are final.

[3] Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East replaced Cheshire local authority in April 2009.

[4] Includes results from Welbeck, the Defense Sixth Form College funded via another Government Department.

[5] No maintained schools prior to 2011 existed for this local authority.

[6] Bedford and Central Bedfordshire replaced Bedfordshire local authority in April 2009.

[7] Maintained Sector includes LA maintained schools, academies, CTCs and FE sector colleges.

## Health Education: Driving under Influence

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to tackle drink-driving through education in schools and colleges. [90531]

**Mr Gibb:** The current, non-statutory programme of study for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) includes teaching pupils about risks and the consequences of their actions on themselves and others. Through National Curriculum science, pupils are currently taught the effects on the body of substance misuse including alcohol. We are reviewing both the National Curriculum and PSHE and will publish proposals for public consultation later this year.

## Special Educational Needs: Training

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will implement the proposal by the British Dyslexia Association that teacher training courses should include mandatory training on recognising dyslexia, dyspraxia and other similar learning difficulties in children. [90735]

**Mr Gibb:** All teachers should have a clear understanding of the needs of pupils with special educational needs, including dyslexia and dyspraxia. In order to be awarded qualified teacher status from September, all trainee teachers must demonstrate that they can adapt their teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils, as set out in the new Teachers' Standards. Specifically, teachers will have to have a clear understanding of the needs of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.

It is for training providers to decide what trainees should be taught to enable them to achieve the Teachers' Standards. The Department does not mandate content of initial teacher training courses.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions: EU Law

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department made of the likely cost of complying with an EU target of reducing carbon emissions by 30 per cent. in each of the documents disclosed to the Information Commissioner and listed in paragraph 3 of the decision of the First-Tier Tribunal (General Regulatory Chamber, Information Rights) in Case EA/2011/0052, dated 8 November 2011. [91069]

**Gregory Barker:** On 8 November 2011 the First-Tier Tribunal (Information Rights) upheld the Information Commissioner's decision that the Department acted correctly in not disclosing the information listed in paragraph 3 of the tribunal's decision.

With regard to when this information will be available, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to him on 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 615W.

### Green Deal Scheme

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will put in place measures to ensure that Green Deal loans cannot be sold on the doorstep; and if he will make a statement. [90809]

**Gregory Barker:** We agree that illegal door step selling of the Green Deal should be prevented. Existing legislation sets out what is and is not acceptable, to protect consumers. We will ensure the code of practice for all Green Deal providers, assessors and installers recognises the existing legislation and allows for any participant found to be in breach to be prevented from operating under the Green Deal.

### Green Deal Scheme: Mobile Homes

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that park home owners benefit from Green Deal measures, including owners who have their energy supplied through a third party and are not eligible for the warm home discount. [90586]

**Gregory Barker:** Successful trials of insulation systems for park homes in 2011 have enabled these measures to be included in the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) for the final year of the scheme. We are now looking at how we could ensure support continues to be available for park home residents through the new energy company obligation, which will form a key element of the Green Deal programme. Park home residents who receive electricity direct from a licensed electricity supplier will also be able to take advantage of Green Deal finance.

### Renewable Energy: Manpower

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of jobs supported by renewable electricity generation in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [89538]

**Charles Hendry:** Our analysis for the Renewable Energy Roadmap (published in July 2011) shows that the renewable energy sector already employs more than a quarter of a million people.

From April 2011 to November 2011, my Department identified a total of £2.46 billion announced and planned investments in the renewable energy sector, with the potential support of over 11,600 temporary and permanent jobs.

A map showing the location of these investments can be downloaded from our website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/meeting-energy-demand/renewable-energy/3994-renewables-investment-and-jobs-announced-1-april-t.pdf

While this does not show investments or jobs specifically in renewable electricity, it does provide a breakdown by English region and the devolved Administrations.

This is not a definitive list of the renewables market activity for this period and the total level of activity is likely to be significantly higher but it indicates the continuing realisation of growth and investment opportunities in the UK renewables sector.

### Solar Power

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 73 of the impact assessment on the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV, whether the 1,000 to 10,000 gross full-time equivalent jobs estimated to be created in the solar sector in the three years to 2014-15, will be in addition to jobs currently supported by the PV industry. [91152]

**Gregory Barker:** In the 2012-13 to 2014-15 period we estimate the total number of gross full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs to be 1,000 to 10,000, based on new installations during that period.

This is a separate estimate from the 8,000 to 14,000 gross FTE jobs that we estimate were supported by solar PV installations to the end of October 2011.

Furthermore, it should be noted that current tariffs are providing returns well in excess of the 5% that was intended when the FITs scheme was launched. Any jobs that are affected are dependent on rates of support above those the scheme was intended to provide, and should not therefore be considered sustainable.

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 576W, on solar power: feed-in tariffs, what estimate he has made of potential changes in uptake in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what assessment he has made of the causes of any such changes; and if he will place in the Library full details of the calculation referred to in the answer. [91153]

**Gregory Barker:** Estimates of future solar PV growth are extremely uncertain. DECC is currently reviewing its estimates in the light of responses to the current consultation on PV tariffs as well as other recent changes in the market, and will provide updated assessments for the final impact assessment published alongside the post-consultation policy response.

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 576W, on solar power: feed-in tariffs, what estimate he has made of the number of full-time equivalent jobs in the solar sector that would have been created had the recent changes to tariffs not been introduced. [91154]

**Gregory Barker:** It is difficult to estimate, and forecast accurately the numbers of jobs associated with any single technology or sector, such as solar PV. However, there are a range of methodologies that can, and are, being used to provide an indication; these inevitably lead to a range of estimates being calculated.

We did not carry out an assessment of the number of jobs that would have been created had the recent changes not been introduced. However, we estimate that 1,000 to 10,000 gross additional full time equivalent jobs could be created in this sector in the three years to 2014-15 under our proposals.

Furthermore, it should be noted that current tariffs are providing returns well in excess of the 5% that was intended when the FITs scheme was launched. Any jobs that are affected are dependent on rates of support above those the scheme was intended to provide, and should not therefore be considered sustainable.

### Uranium: Prices

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the comparative advantages of *(a)* nuclear energy and *(b)* other forms of energy following the recent fall in the price of uranium. [89852]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government have not undertaken an assessment on the relative competitiveness of electricity generation technologies following reductions in the price of uranium. While a reduction in uranium prices in isolation improves the relative competitiveness of nuclear power, it has a limited effect on overall nuclear generation costs. This is because uranium represents a much smaller proportion of nuclear generation costs than the fuel costs for other electricity generation technologies.

DECC commissions regular independent assessments of electricity generation costs. The latest reports can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/gen_costs/gen_costs.aspx

### Warm Front Scheme

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget for the Warm Front Scheme is in 2011-12; and how much of the funding so allocated has been spent to date. [91113]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department has allocated the Warm Front scheme a total budget of £143 million[1] for 2011-12. Of the £143 million, £86 million has been spent with a further £32 million of committed expenditure to date[2].

[1] The total budget of £143 million consists of £110 million allocated to Warm Front and associated activities secured through the spending review 2010. Of this, £108 million was directly allocated to Warm Front. In addition DECC allocated £25 million to support the completion of outstanding work from 2010-11 with a further £10 million allocated to Warm Front in 2011-12 from the Department of Health.

[2] As of the week ending 7 January 2012.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Veterinary Services

**Julian Sturdy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that the closure of regional veterinary laboratories does not adversely affect the levels of disease among farm livestock. [87293]

**Mr Paice:** The majority of laboratory samples are currently sent by specialist couriers, so for most customers, the only change will be in the destination to which the samples are sent. Veterinary Investigation Officers will continue to work with private vets to reach diagnosis.

The ability to respond to disease outbreaks with surge in capacity is maintained because confirmatory tests for notifiable diseases are carried out by Weybridge, which is not part of the regional laboratory network.

Following the rationalisation of the laboratory services department, the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) will still retain capacity at the site of the post-mortem examination to carry out tests, e.g. for anthrax and TB, that are considered to be essential by our veterinary experts and these will be reported urgently.

At present, no AHVLA laboratory operates on weekends or bank holidays. This will change as a result of the rationalisation, to allow weekend working to improve turnaround times for samples received over this period.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the role of the Office of High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and if he will make a statement. [90963]

**Mr Lidington:** We continue to give our full support to the Office of the High Representative and High Representative Valentin Inzko. The High Representative plays a key role as the final authority for interpreting the General Framework Agreement for Peace (the 'Dayton' agreement) in respect of civilian implementation of the peace settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative also acts as an important civilian safeguard against political instability. The Peace Implementation Council has determined that Bosnia and Herzegovina must fulfil certain conditions (comprising five objectives and two conditions) before the Office of the High Representative can close. These conditions have not yet been met.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the compliance of Republika Srpska with *(a)* the Constitutional Court of Bosnia-Herzegovina and *(b)* other institutions established under the Dayton agreement; and if he will make a statement. [91002]

**Mr Lidington:** The UK Government are concerned that the Republika Srpska continues to question and challenge Bosnia and Herzegovina's state level institutions, competencies and laws, as well as the authority of the High Representative under the General Framework Agreement for Peace (the 'Dayton' agreement).

We strongly support, and maintain close contact with, the Office of the High Representative in monitoring such matters, and we defend state-level judicial institutions as legally constituted and necessary for upholding the rule of law.

We were particularly concerned at legal challenges to the Bosnia and Herzegovina State Court in April 2011. We have welcomed the subsequent launch of a Structured Dialogue on Justice between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU. The UK believes that the best prospect for a stable, prosperous and sovereign Bosnia and Herzegovina is as a member of the EU and NATO. As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), underlined in his statement of 13 January 2012, following agreement on the formation of a new Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers, we call on all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to work together and display the determination, compromise and leadership required for Bosnia and Herzegovina to progress on this path.

### Burma: Politics and Government

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the progress of negotiations between the Burmese government and the Karen National Union; and if he will make a statement. [90592]

**Mr Lidington:** The Karen National Union signed an initial agreement with a state level peace delegation from the Burmese Government on 13 January. It is the first step towards a formal, long term ceasefire and political process. Further talks are set to take place in the coming weeks.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), welcomed this important and historic step in his written ministerial statement of the 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 28-29W.

### Embassies: Flags

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK embassies and consulates *(a)* fly the EU flag and *(b)* have on their premises an EU flag for public display; and what cost has been incurred in purchasing such flags. [90785]

**Mr Bellingham:** The UK Representation to the EU, Brussels, display the EU flag at all times. On Europe day, UK missions in the EU and EU-applicant countries display the EU flag. Other UK missions may also display the EU flag on Europe day where this is normal local practice. Many other UK diplomatic missions hold an EU flag either to fly or for public display purposes on appropriate occasions. To obtain the exact figure and the costs incurred in purchasing these flags could be done only at disproportionate cost as details are not held centrally.

### Kazakhstan: Elections

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent elections in Kazakhstan. [90614]

**Mr Lidington:** Kazakhstan held parliamentary and local council elections on 15 January, including in Zhanaozen which was the scene of violent clashes last month. Initial results show President Nazarbayev's Nur Otan party winning 81% of the seats. They are joined by Ak Zhol and the Communist People's party (CPPK), who both passed the 7% threshold to secure seats.

The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' plan is now (ODIHR) initial evaluation of the elections was critical stating that the

> "elections still did not meet fundamental principles of democratic elections"

and that there were

> "serious and systematic shortcomings".

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office welcomes the fact that the elections took place peacefully and the move towards multi-party representation in parliament. However, we share many of the concerns raised by ODIHR and have encouraged an early response from the Kazakh authorities to the ODIHR's report and recommendations, as a basis for ensuring fully free and fair elections in the future.

### Nigeria: Fuels

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Nigeria on the effects of the removal of the fuel subsidy in that country. [90553]

**Mr Bellingham:** The removal of the fuel subsidy in Nigeria is an internal matter and the effects of removing or reducing the fuel subsidy are for the Nigerian

Government to manage. However, the British Government have encouraged the Nigerian Government to pursue sound and effective economic reform plans accompanied by fiscal transparency. Removing the fuel subsidy is a valid economic objective which would allow the Nigerian Government to spend more on infrastructure and development projects to the benefit of the Nigerian public. We welcome the recent announcement by President Jonathan that the Nigerian Government are committed to tackling corruption in the petroleum industry as well as other sectors of the economy.

### Nigeria: Oil

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent nationwide protests in Nigeria regarding oil prices. [91026]

**Mr Bellingham:** Through the British high commission in Abuja, we have closely monitored the impact of President Jonathan's decision to remove fuel subsidies, which led to protests and a national strike from 9 January until action was suspended on 16 January. Regrettably, some outbreaks of violence led to loss of life, but the majority of protests were carried out in a peaceful manner. Negotiations between the Government and unions resulted in suspension of the Government decision and the strike, and averted a shut down in Nigerian oil production—without any discernible impact on oil prices. President Jonathan issued a statement, committing the Nigerian Government to tackling corruption in the petroleum industry and other sectors of the economy. We have encouraged the Nigerian Government to ensure that fiscal transparency and effective economic reform are implemented, although decisions on how to achieve that remain an internal matter for them. We will continue to monitor the situation in Nigeria, and ensure that our travel advice reflects developments.

### Nigeria: Politics and Government

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the causes of sectarian violence involving the Boko Haram in Nigeria. [90556]

**Mr Bellingham:** In the last year Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for attacks against a range of targets including government institutions, security forces and an international organisation, the UN. Recently, Boko Haram has also claimed responsibility for a number of attacks specifically targeted against Christians and Christian places of worship, although it remains the case that the majority of Boko Haram's victims to date have been Muslims, including Muslim religious leaders. We assess that the purpose of the attacks against Christians is to exacerbate religious and communal tensions. However, in some instances we judge that attacks carried out with criminal motives are also being ascribed to Boko Haram. Poverty, lack of economic opportunity, social inequality and political tensions all contribute significantly to insecurity in northern and central Nigeria.

### South Sudan: Politics and Government

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in South Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [90343]

**Mr Bellingham:** We are greatly concerned about the security situation in parts of South Sudan, and particularly about the violence between the Lou Nuer and Murle tribes in Jonglei state. A number of lives were saved in Jonglei by the political and military actions of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) and the UN, but it is important that lessons are learned and that protection of civilians is accorded the highest priority by the Government of South Sudan, with whom the primary responsibility lies, and the UN.

### Sudan

**Tony Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on trade with the Republic of Sudan. [90887]

**Mr Bellingham:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 608W.

## HEALTH

### Disability: Children

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the findings of the report entitled Disabled Children and Health Reform: Questions, Challenges and Opportunities, published by Every Disabled Child Matters and The Children's Trust; and if he will make a statement. [90884]

**Anne Milton:** The Department has considered the recommendations set out in the report entitled 'Disabled Children and Health Reform: Questions, Challenges and Opportunities', published by Every Disabled Child Matters and The Children's Trust.

A detailed response to each of the recommendations within the report was sent in correspondence between my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Earl Howe) and Every Disabled Child Matters.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

### Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

**Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to determine the prevalence of foetal alcohol spectrum disorders; and what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of *(a)* prevention strategies and *(b)* targeted interventions for high-risk groups. [90941]

**Anne Milton:** In 2005, the Department commissioned the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) to review the evidence of foetal effects of prenatal alcohol exposure. The NPEU published its findings in 2006 as 'Review of the Fetal Effects of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure'.

The review discussed in detail the difficulties of identifying accurately children with foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and alcohol neuro-developmental disorder and the resulting difficulties in estimating prevalence.

The review considered the risks of foetal exposure to low to moderate alcohol consumption and to binge drinking during pregnancy.

The review found no consistent evidence of adverse effects from low-to-moderate prenatal alcohol consumption, although it also found that the evidence base was limited.

In 2007, UK chief medical officers (CMOs) published revised guidance on alcohol consumption during pregnancy, which took account of the NPEU's review. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published further guidance on this subject for health professionals in England in 2008.

NPEU's review identified a number of research gaps, including levels of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, prevalence of FAS and foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), whether a 'safe' level of alcohol consumption could be identified, and how to characterise and diagnose neuro-developmental problems in children with FAS and FASD.

Prevention strategies include universal and targeted interventions. Among the former, advice on drinking in pregnancy and possible harmful foetal effects is incorporated in the Department's public health materials. A warning on drinking alcohol while pregnant or trying to conceive, consistent with the UK CMOs' guidance, will be included on alcohol labels as a result of an industry pledge under the Public Health Responsibility Deal, covering 80% of the off-trade market by the end of 2013.

NICE has published 'Pregnancy and complex social factors: A model for service provision for pregnant women with complex social factors' (NICE clinical guideline 110, September 2010). This includes advice on support for pregnant women who misuse substances, whether alcohol or drugs.

### Health: Disadvantaged

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of health trainers on the general health of the local population in deprived areas; [90655]

(2) how many health trainers there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* Worcestershire. [90657]

**Anne Milton:** The Department's Policy Research Programme has commissioned an evaluation of the health trainer initiative. The project looks at the ways in which the role has been interpreted and the types of advice given. Implementation is context-specific and it will be difficult to isolate and generalise about health impact within this or any subsequent research.

The Data Collection and Reporting Service system has about 85-90% coverage of health trainer services in England: this equates to 2,173 staff. For Worcestershire, the primary care trust organisation currently employs a total of 28 qualified or trainee health trainers and health champions.

### Hospitals: North Tees and Hartlepool

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 407W, on Hospitals: Durham, if he will reconsider plans to implement the recommendations of the Darzi review of acute health services north of the River Tees; and if he will make a statement; [90481]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 40W, on Hospitals: Wynyard, what plans he has for the future of the proposed new hospital at Wynyard in Hartlepool constituency; and if he will make a statement. [90482]

**Mr Simon Burns:** No. I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 407W, on Hospitals: Durham. The recommendations of the Darzi review of acute health services north of the River Tees were superseded by those put forward by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP). The "Momentum: pathways to healthcare" reconfiguration programme has been developed locally by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, in liaison with the Tees Primary Care Trust cluster, to implement the recommendations made by the IRP.

Officials in the Department are currently reviewing the outline business case for a private finance initiative funding proposal for the development of the proposed new hospital at Wynyard. Subject to departmental approval, this application will also need to be approved by Her Majesty's Treasury in order to proceed.

### Influenza: Vaccination

**Andy Burnham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of general practitioner patients had the influenza vaccination in each primary care trust area in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [91055]

**Anne Milton:** Data on the uptake of seasonal flu vaccine among general practitioner (GP) patients who were recommended to receive the seasonal flu vaccine in 2009 and 2010 at primary care trust (PCX) level were published in the Health Protection Agency's annual influenza report for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 flu seasons, 'Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake amongst GP patient groups in England 2010-11', and 'Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake among the 65s and over and under 65s at risk in England winter season 2009-10'. A copy of each report has been placed in the Library.

Data on the uptake of seasonal flu vaccine in GP patients recommended to receive the seasonal flu vaccine at PCT level in the 2011-12 flu season, up to 31 December 2011 have been placed in the Library and are available on the Department's website at:

http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk

The Health Protection Agency will publish an annual report for the 2011-12 flu season later in 2012.

### Leukaemia: Drugs

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the provision of a patient access scheme for the drug nilotinib by Novartis, what discussions he has had with Bristol-Myers Squibb on the provision of a similar scheme for the drug dasatinib; [90994]

(2) with reference to the provision of a patient access scheme for the drug nilotinib by Novartis, what his policy is on the provision of a similar scheme by Bristol-Myers Squibb with respect to dasatinib; [90995]

(3) with reference to the provision of a patient access scheme for the drug nilotinib by Novartis, what discussions he has had with leukaemia patients and

their representatives on *(a)* this scheme and *(b)* the need for comparable schemes for other leukaemia treatments. [90997]

**Paul Burstow:** It is for the manufacturers of a drug to decide if they wish to submit a patient access scheme proposal to the Department for potential consideration as part of a National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence appraisal. The manufacturer of dasatinib has not approached the Department regarding the possibility of a patient access scheme for dasatinib.

We have had no discussions with leukaemia patients and their representatives on the nilotinib patient access scheme or the need for comparable schemes for other leukaemia treatments.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the recent decision by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence not to recommend dasatinib as a first or second line of treatment for patients with chronic myeloid leukaemia; and if he will make a statement. [90996]

**Paul Burstow:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not yet published final guidance on the use of dasatinib for the first-line treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML). NICE has recently consulted on its draft recommendations and will now consider the responses received before issuing final guidance.

NICE issued final technology appraisal guidance on 13 January 2012 that recommends the use of nilotinib for the treatment of patients with CML who are resistant or intolerant to standard-dose imatinib but does not recommend dasatinib or high-dose imatinib for this indication.

NICE is an independent body and we have made no assessment of its draft or final guidance on these drugs.

In the absence of final positive NICE technology appraisal guidance, primary care trusts (PCTs) are required to take funding decisions locally based on an assessment of the available evidence and to have processes in place to consider individual funding requests for drugs. Where a cancer drug is not routinely funded by a PCT, patients may be able to access it through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

### Neurology

**Andy Burnham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the recent National Audit Office report on services for people with neurological conditions, what steps he plans to take to ensure equitable services across England for people with neurological conditions. [91056]

**Paul Burstow:** We are considering the National Audit Office report on services for people with neurological conditions, and will be responding in due course.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Criminal Investigation: Costs

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to the police is of investigating a crime leading to a *(a)* caution, *(b)* conviction in a magistrates' court, *(c)* conviction in a Crown court and *(d)* community sentence. [90790]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office published estimates of the average cost of police activity associated with various crime types for 2003 in Home Office Online Report 30/05. These estimates can be found in table 2.2 via the following link. No estimates have been made of average police costs which relate specifically to investigation and particular disposals.

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100413151441/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr3005.pdf

### Crown Prosecution Service

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers she has to instigate an independent review of a police operational decision not to pass evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service. [90032]

**Nick Herbert:** Under section 11(2) of the Police Reform Act 2002, the Secretary of State for the Home Department can require the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) to report

> "about matters relating generally to the carrying out of its functions".

Under section 54 (2B) of the Police Act 1996, the Home Secretary can require Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to carry out an inspection of a police force.

### Metropolitan Police

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what functions have been transferred from the Association of Chief Police Officers to the Metropolitan Police since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [88789]

**Nick Herbert:** This is a matter for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

### Overseas Students: National Insurance Numbers

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of introducing time restrictions on national insurance numbers for international students in the UK on student visas; and if she will make a statement. [88325]

**Chris Grayling:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

We are currently examining a range of options for strengthening cross-government co-operation regarding the immigration status of overseas nationals in the UK and will make further announcements in due course.

### Police and Crime Commissioners

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what responsibilities she proposes that Police and Crime Commissioners will have in respect of services for victims of crime. [90794]

**Nick Herbert:** In November 2011, I announced the Government's intention to consult on (a) the proposal that the majority of support services for victims of crime be commissioned by local commissioners, based on locally identified need and (b), that Police and Crime Commissioners be the local commissioners of such services. The detail of these proposals will be included in the forthcoming Victims and Witnesses consultation.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Christmas

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* other Christmas decorations in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [91076]

**Mr Duncan:** Nothing.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on recruitment agencies in each month since September 2011. [88002]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has a framework arrangement with recruitment agency Manpower Services to provide agency personnel for administrative positions. This framework arrangement is managed centrally through the Human Resources Division (HRD) and detailed spend is recorded. HRD also contracts administrative personnel through the agency provider Margaret Hodge when Manpower Services is unable to provide what is required.

The total DFID spend to Manpower and Margaret Hodge in each month since September 2011 is as follows:

| | | £ |
|---|---:|---:|
| *Month* | *Manpower* | *Margaret Hodge* |
| September | 39,781.12 | 792.00 |
| October | 65,84975 | 1,584.00 |
| November | 33,771.41 | 1,821.60 |
| December | [1]— | 1,188.00 |
| Total | 139,402.28 | 6,086.88 |

[1] Not yet available through the charging mechanism.

DFID departments have authority to contract agency personnel directly for specialist and technical roles. Records of this spend are not maintained centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Controlled Foreign Companies

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on the likely effect on developing countries of the proposed changes in the Finance Bill to the rules governing Controlled Foreign Companies. [90621]

**Mr Duncan:** Department for International Development Ministers and officials meet regularly with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to discuss various issues including taxation and domestic resource mobilisation in developing countries. The matter of Controlled Foreign Companies has been raised on occasion in such meetings.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on developing countries of the proposed changes in the Finance Bill to the rules governing Controlled Foreign Companies. [90622]

**Mr Duncan:** The Government have not produced an assessment of the effect on developing countries of the proposed changes to the CFC rules as these rules are designed to prevent artificial diversion of UK profits. The Government work through a variety of channels to deliver high-quality capacity building in developing country tax administrations to ensure that these countries are in a position to collect the tax they are owed.

### Overseas Aid

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms are in place to ensure that official development assistance spending by other Government Departments or through pooled funding mechanisms such as the conflict pool complies with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development guidelines. [90623]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is responsible for reporting UK official development assistance (ODA) to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This involves compiling the details of official development assistance spending by other Government Departments or through pooled funding mechanisms such as the conflict pool.

DFID works closely with other Government Departments to ensure that reported ODA expenditure complies with the DAC directives on ODA eligibility. This includes providing written guidance on specific types of expenditure and answering queries on ODA eligibility. In cases where there is uncertainty regarding ODA eligibility, DFID requests clarification from the DAC and ensures that the recommendations are followed. Both DFID and the DAC review the items of expenditure reported as ODA in each calendar year and any questions regarding ODA eligibility are resolved through mutual agreement with other Government Departments when necessary. As the UK representative on ODA compliance and reporting, DFID actively participates in the development of new criteria on ODA eligibility with other member states of the DAC.

## JUSTICE

### Offenders: Mental illness

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders held under the Mental Health Act 1983 have received employment and support allowance in each of the last three years; and at what cost to the public purse such allowances were paid. [89455]

**Chris Grayling:** I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

Persons who have been convicted of a criminal offence and are serving their sentence in hospital under the Mental Health Act are not entitled to social security benefits and are therefore not eligible to receive employment and support allowance (ESA). Therefore any cost to the public purse in these cases would be met by the Department of Health.

However, once the sentence has been served benefit would become payable. Information is not held centrally on the numbers of such people who receive ESA.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Flags

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on plans to introduce an official flag for Northern Ireland. [91157]

**Mr Paterson:** The Union flag is the official flag of Northern Ireland. I have had no discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive in relation to this issue.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of human trafficking from and into Northern Ireland. [91159]

**Mr Paterson:** Following the devolution of policing and justice functions in April 2010, matters relating to human trafficking are now devolved and are the responsibility of the Minister of Justice in Northern Ireland. My hon. Friend may wish to approach him directly on this matter.

## SCOTLAND

### Enterprise Zones

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had any discussions with the Scottish Government *(a)* orally and *(b)* through written communication on the location of enterprise zones in Scotland. [91161]

**David Mundell:** The UK Government introduced enterprise zones as part of the 2011 Budget. As a result, the Scottish Government received Barnett consequentials which the Scottish Government have now decided to use for a comparable scheme. The location of enterprise zones in Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Government to determine and I have therefore had no discussions with the Scottish Government on this matter. There has been discussion at official level with the Scottish Government and HM Treasury on the application of incentives within enterprise zones in Scotland which have a bearing on reserved matters such as state aid.

## TRANSPORT

### Blue Badge Scheme

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many staff in her Department are responsible for liaising with local authorities on the blue badge scheme; [90936]

(2) what the cost has been of the online application system for the blue badge scheme since its introduction; [90998]

(3) how many complaints her Department received regarding the blue badge scheme online application system from *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* hon. Members and *(c)* members of the public in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2012 to date; [90999]

(4) how many blue badges were issued in each of the last three years. [91160]

**Norman Baker:** Three staff in the Department for Transport (DFT) are responsible, among other duties, for liaising with local authorities on the blue badge scheme.

The Blue Badge Improvement Service went live on 1 January 2012 in England and Scotland and will also go live in Wales in April 2012. This is a new system which is now being used by all local authorities in England and Scotland to develop a common database of blue badge holders and badges on issue, make a national online application form available via:

http://www.direct.gov.uk

and to print a new blue badge design which is more secure and will prevent fraud and abuse of the scheme. The private sector has invested the capital needed to develop the service, in return for a charge per badge issued that will be payable by local authorities. This funding arrangement means that there is no cost to the Government for any aspect of the service, including the online form.

The online application system came into force on 1 January 2012. The DFT has not received any complaints about the approximately 20,000 badges that have been printed and issued or the 2,000 applications that have been received through the online application form.

The estimated number of blue badges issued in England was 906,000 in 2009-10 and 939,000 in 2010-11. Estimates for earlier years are not available.

### Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the six-month trial to suspend the Dartford Crossing tolls during periods of severe congestion; and how many times the tolls were suspended during the trial. [90532]

**Mike Penning:** The six month trial using the criteria set out in the suspension of charges protocol for the Dartford Crossing ended on 31 December 2011. The findings are currently being reviewed and it is expected that a report will be available in spring 2012. Until the review is complete, the current protocol will remain in place.

During the trial period, the road user charge at the Dartford Crossing was suspended once on 26 August 2011.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what she proposes will be the total expenditure from *(a)* her Department's budget and *(b)* Network Rail's regulated asset base on (i) bridge renewals, (ii) station enhancements and (iii) improving winter resilience in each of the remaining years of the comprehensive spending review period. [90940]

**Mrs Villiers:** As part of the Growth Review, £250 million of funding was provided for bridge renewals; £26 million was allocated to the Access for All programme to deliver station accessibility improvements; and £10 million was allocated to improved winter resilience. This expenditure was funded via Network Rail's Regulated Asset Base (RAB).

The Department for Transport and Network Rail have agreed that these schemes will be delivered by the end of Control Period 4 (i.e. March 2014).

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Autumn Statement, how much of the cost of the announced investment in *(a)* bridge renewals, *(b)* station enhancements and *(c)* improving winter resilience she proposes will fall beyond the comprehensive spending review period. [90943]

**Mrs Villiers:** The investments in bridge renewals, station enhancements and winter resilience will all be financed via additions to Network Rail's Regulated Asset Base (RAB).

As with other regulated utilities, additions to the RAB are financed via a return paid to Network Rail and an amortisation (i.e. depreciation) charge. These payments are made over the life of the asset (generally around 30 years).

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of closing regional Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency offices; and what proportion of such costs arise from *(a)* staff, *(b)* premises and *(c)* other costs. [90636]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 January 2012, *Official Report,* column 638W, with regards to potential costs arising from redundancy. Total one-off costs are estimated as follows:

| *Total one-off costs* | *Up to £50 million* |
|---|---|
| Staff | £32 million |
| Premises | £5 million |
| Other | Up to £13 million |

These costs and savings are under continuous review and the estimated figures provided are subject to refinement.

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) meets the needs of people who either cannot or choose not to use web-based services and who continue to require face-to-face and postal services if the proposals to centralise DVLA services are implemented. [90632]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* Responses to the current consultation will enable the DVLA to better understand the needs of all its customers. This will inform the development of the transformation proposals and decisions on the delivery of DVLA services.

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effect of plans to centralise Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency services on the cost to its customers of its services. [90634]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* No formal assessment has been completed. Customer responses to the current consultation will be used to inform a detailed assessment of the costs and benefits arising from the proposals. The assessment will be completed after the consultation period has ended.

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effects on the average length of time taken by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to carry out driver services-related tasks if proposals to centralise its operations are implemented. [90635]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 19 January 2012]:* Analysis has been undertaken of all driver transactions conducted within the local office network and the implications of centralising this work. Initial results of this analysis indicate that the centralisation of driver transactions will not affect the agency's ability to meet its Secretary of State targets.

### Driver Information Systems

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will publish the proposed agenda for her Department's planned summit on satellite navigation systems; [90251]

(2) what plans she has to discuss the role of satellite navigation systems in diverting HGVs away from small rural roads at her Department's planned summit on satellite navigation. [90367]

**Norman Baker:** The Department is developing the agenda for the summit with ADEPT, an association of local authority chief officers, and ITS(UK), a representative body of the satellite navigation industry. The agenda will be shared with participants once finalised.

More information on the background to the workshop can be found in the Government's response to their consultation on road classification, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/road-network-policy/

### High Speed 2

**Guy Opperman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to ensure that equipment and materials for High Speed 2 are *(a)* made in and *(b)* procured from the north-east. [90674]

**Justine Greening:** The Government believe that it is important that the UK-based supply chain should be in a position to benefit as far as possible from the opportunities presented by the development and delivery of HS2, including firms in the north-east of England. As set out in the National Infrastructure Plan, HS2 will form part of a long-term pipeline of infrastructure projects in the UK which will enable private sector firms to plan for the future and invest in technology and skills. The Government will also seek to open a dialogue with potential UK-based suppliers to ensure that they are well-placed to bid competitively for future contracts, including making better use of pre-procurement dialogue to encourage efficiency and innovation, and establish more sustainable supply chains.

### HM Coastguard

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vessels HM Coastguard has assisted in each of the last five years. [91049]

**Mike Penning:** The following table shows the number of incidents in which vessels were assisted by HM Coastguard in each of the last five years.

| | *Number of incidents where vessels assisted* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 5,994 |
| 2008 | 5,406 |
| 2009 | 6,571 |
| 2010 | 6,362 |
| 2011 | 6,791 |

### Railways: Fares

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what recent progress she has made on the commitment to fair pricing for rail travel. [87500]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced on 29 November that the Government have secured the funding needed to keep the increase in the cap on average regulated rail fares and Transport for London fares to an average of RPI+1% for 2012.

### Railways: Finance

**Maria Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the potential effects of changes to liquidity costs for banks on the funding of *(a)* rolling stock and *(b)* infrastructure projects. [87486]

**Mrs Villiers:** Rolling stock and infrastructure projects that are currently in procurement but not yet signed, are regularly monitored for value for money and affordability. This is done on a case by case basis.

## TREASURY

### Bank Services

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission an independent cost-benefit analysis of the introduction of portable bank account numbers. [91164]

**Mr Gauke:** The Independent Commission on Banking (ICB) recommended an account switching and redirection service as a means to promoting competition in the banking market in their final report.

The Government believe that the switching service, as recommended by the ICB, will deliver significant consumer benefits once it is established in September 2013, providing consumers with a safe and reliable service that allows them to hold their bank to account.

The ICB decided not to recommend the introduction of portable account numbers, concluding that

> "its costs and incremental benefits are uncertain relative to redirection"

and that

> "it appears that redirection may deliver many of the benefits of account number portability at lower cost".

However, as outlined in the Government response to the ICB report on 19 December 2011, the Government will assess whether or not the new switching service has delivered the expected consumer benefits once the service is operational, and if necessary, will then consider further measures, including full account portability.

### Cash Dispensing: Fees and Charges

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has held discussions with *(a)* publicly owned banks and *(b)* UK Financial Investments Ltd on cash machine charges for basic bank account holders. [91163]

**Mr Hoban:** Treasury Ministers and officials meet with, and receive representations from, a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

### Credit Reference Agencies

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the UK maintains its triple A credit rating. [90724]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government's macroeconomic strategy is designed to protect the economy through this period of instability, to maintain market confidence in the UK and to lay the foundations for a stronger and more balanced economy in the future. The Autumn Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, set out a comprehensive plan to return the public finances to a sustainable position and meet the Government's fiscal targets. In recent months, the major credit rating agencies have re-affirmed the UK's sovereign credit rating at AAA with a stable outlook.

### Investment

**Guy Opperman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is taking steps to reform the banking system by using Government funds to set up an industry bank. [90580]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government have already taken steps to get credit flowing to UK businesses and to the wider economy. At the Autumn Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), launched a package of interventions worth up to £21 billion to ease the flow of credit to businesses that do not have ready access to capital markets. The package includes a National Loan Guarantee Scheme of up to £20 billion of guarantees for bank funding to lower the cost of lending to smaller businesses, subject to state aid approval; and a new £1 billion Business Finance Partnership to deliver additional finance to mid-sized businesses through non-bank lending channels. This is alongside a range of other Government measures to support small businesses to access finance including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG).

The Government are also keen to promote financial stability and competition in the UK banking sector and have already set out their intention to implement the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking.

### Taxation: Self-assessment

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the categories of employment are in which people are not allowed to file individual self-assessment forms online. [91162]

**Mr Gauke:** The vast majority of self assessment (SA) taxpayers can file their SA tax return online by using the free HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) self assessment online service or commercial software. The nature of an individual's employment does not necessarily preclude them from filing their SA tax return online. However, a small proportion of SA taxpayers are not able to file online, usually because they need to complete special dedicated pages.

A full list of these exclusions is available on the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/ebu/2011-exc-indi.pdf

These customers are not able to file online as it would be disproportionately costly to develop the necessary forms and links to departmental computer systems.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Gender Recognition

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she plans to take to address transgender discrimination. [90546]

**Lynne Featherstone:** In December 2011, the Government published "Advancing transgender equality: a plan for action," the first ever Government transgender equality action plan. This plan includes firm cross-Government commitments to be delivered throughout the lifetime of this Parliament. It outlines the actions Government will take to improve the lives of transgender people in all areas of public policy, including in education, employment, hate crime, and health and social care.

The Government will continue to work with and support public bodies, businesses, practitioners and the voluntary sector throughout the delivery of the commitments included.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Carer's Allowance

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will allow carers who reach state pension age to continue to claim carer's allowance. [90953]

**Steve Webb:** The Government have no current plans to make any changes to the conditions of entitlement for carer's allowance.

### Children: Disadvantaged

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of material deprivation on the levels of subjective well-being of children; [90145]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of levels of household income on the levels of subjective well-being of children; [90146]

(3) what research his Department has commissioned to measure the subjective well-being of children; [90152]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill on levels of subjective well-being of children. [90154]

**Maria Miller:** The Department for Work and Pensions is working with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and a range of stakeholders, including other Government Departments and representatives from the third sector, to develop well-being measures for children and young people as part of the overall Measuring National Well-being Programme.

Measures appropriate to children and young people need to include both their own views about their well-being as well as more objective measures of the circumstances that children and young people find themselves in. Collecting subjective well-being information from children is important because research has shown that parents' reporting of children's subjective well-being is quite different from the way children report it themselves.

This work will provide more robust intelligence about children's well-being and the factors that contribute to it, provide a measure of children's well-being in the UK in comparison to other comparable countries, and drive policy prioritisation to improve outcomes for children and young people. This is a developing field of research, being led by ONS. Once their analysis is complete, we will consider its application to income and material deprivation statistics.

The Department has also commissioned a research project to investigate the determinants of well-being across the lifecycle, which will look at both childhood well-being and well-being at later stages to see how these inter-relate and how childhood well-being is linked to adult outcomes.

More generally, the Department considers the impact of policies on groups with protected characteristics that are likely to be affected, as the equalities duty requires. Age is one of the protected characteristics.

For example, the Department has considered the impact of welfare reform on children. Work and the improved incomes that flow from it, have beneficial effects in terms of people's health and well-being, the educational achievements of children and improvements in communities, such as reduced crime and antisocial behaviour.

Universal credit will improve work incentives by allowing individuals to keep more of their income as they move into work, and by introducing a smoother and more transparent reduction of benefits when they increase their earnings. In the long run universal credit could reduce the number of workless households by as much as 300,000 according to the Impact Assessment published by the Department for Work and Pensions in October 2011.

The greater simplicity of universal credit is also expected to lead to a substantial increase in the take-up of currently unclaimed benefits, with most of the impact being at the lower end of the income distribution. The Impact Assessment published in October 2011 estimates that, on reasonable assumptions, the combined impact of take-up and entitlements will lift around 900,000 individuals out of poverty, including more than 350,000 children and around 550,000 working-age adults.

The Department is also reforming the child maintenance system. It is our strong view that it is the best outcome for the children if separating parents make a collaborative family based agreement wherever possible. Through better co-ordinated and strengthened family support services and wider reforms, we will help and encourage parents to reach a collaborative arrangement. However for those parents who cannot make their own arrangement we will introduce a new statutory child maintenance service in 2012 to enable us to better calculate and collect money for children.

Additionally, when preparing the 2011 Child Poverty Strategy, the Child Poverty Unit worked with the Office of the Children's Commissioner to get opinions from children and their parents as to what they thought the strategy should contain. This was published by the Children's Commissioner as "Consulting with Children and Young People on Child Poverty (2011)".

### Council Tax

**Mr Raynsford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the council tax benefit data published in Table 15a and Table 15b by his Department on 14 December 2011 at national aggregate level for each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* parliamentary constituency showing (i) council tax benefit recipients by age group and family type at September 2011 and (ii) council tax benefit recipients' average weekly award by age group and family type at September 2011. [R] [89576]

**Steve Webb:** A copy of the available information has been placed in the Library.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Department's consultation on disability living allowance, for what reasons the increase in the number of claimants of disability living allowance requires the allowance to be reformed. [89716]

**Maria Miller:** Reform of DLA is long overdue. The new personal independence payment will be designed to support disabled people and enable support to be targeted on those who face the greatest barriers to leading full, active and independent lives.

We want to create a benefit that is affordable and sustainable in the long term. The total number of people claiming disability living allowance has risen almost 30% in the last eight years, from 2.5 million to 3.2 million in 2010-11, almost three quarters of which is not attributable to demographics, and total DLA expenditure has increased over the same period by almost £3.4 billion (nearly 40% in 2011-12 prices.) If unreformed the number claiming DLA would rise to 3.5 million. The cost of this would be unsustainable. However this is only one of a number of factors underpinning reform.

There is also no systematic process of reviewing whether awards remain correct and an over-reliance on self-assessment—only around 50% of applications for DLA are corroborated by medical evidence. In 2004-05 the National Benefit Review estimated that £630 million of incorrect payments were being made to individuals whose condition had changed. Equally concerning is that £190 million was not claimed despite individuals experiencing deteriorating conditions. It cannot be right that individuals receive incorrect awards, and our reforms will ensure awards are regularly reviewed in a proportionate way.

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the findings of the report entitled Responsible Reform: A report on the proposed changes to Disability Living Allowance, published by Dr S J Campbell and other disability representatives; and if he will make a statement. [90885]

**Maria Miller:** I am aware of the publication of this report. I believe that the report seriously misrepresents the way the Department has carried out consultation and design of necessary reforms to disability living allowance. In particular the report fails to acknowledge the extensive work that the Department has done since the formal consultation on DLA reform ended nearly a year ago. We have also had ongoing meetings with disabled people and representative organisations and have just commenced a further, formal consultation of 15 weeks on revised assessment criteria as a result of the earlier informal consultation.

These discussions have led to significant changes to our plans. For example, we will not be removing the mobility component from care home residents and we have decided that the qualifying period will be three months instead of six. We have also listened and made significant changes to the assessment criteria as a result of our engagement with disabled people and their organisations. These developments reflect our determination that the design and development of personal independence payment should be through active engagement with disabled people and their representative organisations.

The case for reform is clear—DLA is confusing for individuals to understand, based on unclear criteria and often results in inconsistent awards. Expenditure is also far in excess of the initial estimated costs and it currently costs £12.6 billion. We need to ensure that the benefit is sustainable, and that it reflects the needs of disabled people today, rather than in the 1990s. Our reforms will ensure that support is targeted on those who face the greatest challenges to take part in everyday life.

### Employer's Liability

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 908W, on employers' liability, when he expects to make a final announcement on the status and funding arrangements of the Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau. [90646]

**Chris Grayling:** I appreciate that the Government's response to the consultation is taking longer to publish than many had hoped. However the issues raised are complex and we remain in discussions with all stakeholders to make sure we get this right. We are still carefully considering all the issues and will bring forward our proposals in due course.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 908W, on employers liability, which stakeholders *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have met to discuss employer liability insurance since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [90647]

**Chris Grayling:** Since May 2010 the Minister for Welfare Reform, Lord Freud, has met with representatives from the Association of British Insurers and Zurich, Aviva and RSA Insurance to discuss the proposals in the public consultation, "Accessing compensation—supporting people who need to trace employers' liability insurance".

Additionally he has had discussions with the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum UK, the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, the Association of Run-Off Companies, the Financial Services Authority, the Financial Services Compensation scheme, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Health and Safety and a representative from the Trades Union Congress.

DWP officials have met with the same groups of stakeholders as well as Resolute Management Services Ltd. They also chaired the annual meeting of the Employers' Liability Code of Practice Review Body.

### Employment Schemes

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 594W, on employment schemes, for each individual contracted provider what the proportion was of jobseekers who started on the Flexible New Deal and entered employment up to *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months and *(d)* 12 months after starting on the programme. [90946]

**Chris Grayling:** Flexible new deal providers were paid on the basis of a monthly service fee and payments for job outcomes both short-term (13 weeks in continuous employment) and sustained outcomes (26/30 weeks in employment). Participants stayed on the programme for up to 12 months although three month extensions were available.

The following figures are based on participants who started prior to September 2010 and hence could have spent a year on the programme prior to contract termination. They show the percentage of participants with each flexible new deal provider who achieved a 13 week job outcome which started within x months of their entry to flexible new deal.

| *Percentage of FND participants who achieved Job Outcome which started by:* | *3 months* | *6 months* | *9 months* | *12 months* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A4e (5 contracts) | 9 | 15 | 19 | 20 |
| Calder Holdings | 11 | 16 | 19 | 21 |
| Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council | 8 | 12 | 15 | 16 |
| EOS-Works Ltd | 9 | 14 | 17 | 19 |
| Ingeus (2 contracts) | 10 | 16 | 19 | 21 |
| Max Employment UK Ltd | 13 | 20 | 25 | 27 |
| Pertemps People Development Group | 12 | 19 | 23 | 25 |
| Remploy | 10 | 16 | 19 | 21 |
| Seetec | 9 | 14 | 18 | 20 |
| Serco (3 contracts) | 10 | 16 | 19 | 21 |
| Skills Training UK Ltd | 11 | 18 | 22 | 24 |
| The Wise Group | 10 | 15 | 19 | 20 |
| TNG | 12 | 18 | 21 | 23 |
| Working Links (4 contracts) | 9 | 15 | 19 | 20 |
| Overall | 10 | 16 | 19 | 21 |

*Source:*
Provider Referrals and Payment System Management Information (December 2011)

### Employment: Care Industry

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs in the care industry were advertised in jobcentres in December 2011; and what proportion of these vacancies were filled. [90182]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is as follows:

The number of care assistants and home carers vacancies notified for the month ending 2 December 2011 (commonly referred to as December 2011) for Great Britain was 35,879.

### Industrial Health and Safety

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of health and safety rules relating to local events. [91156]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government are concerned to ensure that local events are not unnecessarily constrained by unnecessary health and safety regulations. These issues are taken further in the two Government reports, "Common Sense Common Safety", published in 2010, and, "Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone", published in 2011.

Additionally the Health and Safety Executive set up a Challenge Panel on 5 January 2012 to enable business to challenge specific health and safety regulatory advice. A second panel—to be set up later this year—will be available for those who wish to challenge claims made about health and safety requirements by non-regulators.

## Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

**Mr Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for industrial injuries disablement benefit have been made in each of the last four years; and how many were *(a)* awarded on first application, *(b)* awarded after an internal review and *(c)* awarded after a First Tier Tribunal hearing. [89726]

**Chris Grayling:** The information on claim numbers and assessments put into payment following internal reviews or following a First Tier Tribunal hearing is not available. The number of claims and payable assessments for the last four years is as follows:

*IIDB claims and decision outcomes*

| | *Claims received* | *Decisions made* | *Assessments not payable* | *Assessments payable* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January to March 2011 | 8,190 | 9,480 | 1,800 | 3,670 |
| 2010 | 41,740 | 58,590 | 15,570 | 23,650 |
| 2009 | 63,840 | 41,440 | 8,020 | 14,720 |
| 2008 | 35,050 | 33,070 | 5,560 | 12,160 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Payment for IIDB is dependent on the individual's level of disability. The threshold for payment of industrial injuries disablement benefit is a disablement assessment of 14%. A successful claim can be an assessment at 1% disablement, which would not of itself give rise to benefit.
3. There is a time delay between claims being made and first assessments taking place. Comparing claims and payable first assessments will give an estimated success rate only as decisions on claims submitted are not necessarily made in the same time period. For this reason the number of first assessments made in a year may exceed the number of claims made. Prescribed Disease A14 (Osteoarthritis of the knee in miners) was introduced from 13 July 2009. This resulted in a large number of claims, many of which did not receive first assessments until early 2010. This accounts for the apparent particularly large anomaly between numbers of claims and first assessments in 2009-10.
4. Includes claims to Prescribed Disease A11 under new regulations from 1 October 2007.
5. Information is published at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/iidb/index.php?page=iidb_quarterly_mar11

## Pensions

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to increase the 25 pence per week pension increase payable to individuals aged 80 or older. [90954]

**Steve Webb:** In April 2011, we set out proposals for reform of the state pension system in a Green Paper "A State Pension for the 21st Century". This provides an opportunity to review all aspects of the state pension scheme, including elements such as the age addition, to ensure that any reformed system is affordable, sustainable and supports the needs of future pensioners; who will face different challenges in retirement than today's pensioners.

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the UK hold self-invested personal pensions; and what estimate has been made of their total value. [91001]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is not available because it is not collected from pension providers.

Information about the number of people contributing to personal and stakeholder pensions and the value of their contributions can be found on the HMRC website in tables 7.4 and 7.5 at the following address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu-by-year.htm

Information about the total value of defined contribution pensions can be found in the Office for National Statistics publication "Wealth in Great Britain."

## Social Security Benefits

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average total level of benefits received per household in receipt of benefits was in *(a)* Poplar and Limehouse constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and *(c)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [89872]

**Chris Grayling:** While information on DWP administered benefits is available at constituency level, we do not hold complete information on those benefits administered by other Government Departments and organisations. Restricting analysis to those benefits administered directly by DWP may present a misleading picture of benefit receipt. In addition, we estimate that developing an appropriate methodology and quality assuring any analysis of DWP administrative data would exceed disproportionate cost limits.

According to the latest release of the Family Resource Survey (FRS), the median weekly household income from benefits and tax credits for households with at least one member in receipt of at least one benefit or tax credit in the United Kingdom in 2009-10 was £141. The sample size of the FRS is not large enough to provide robust estimates at the constituency or borough level.

*Notes:*

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest pound.
2. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors that control for tenure type, council tax band and a number of demographic variables.
3. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-sampling bias.
4. The FRS is known to under-record benefit receipt. Please see table M6 of Chapter 7 of the latest publication for more information:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/2009_10/frs_2009_10_report.pdf

5. These figures have not been adjusted to account for different household sizes.

6. A household refers to a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (i.e. a living room). A household will consist of one or more benefit units.

### UK Law

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which EU *(a)* Directives, *(b)* Regulations and *(c)* other legislation affecting his Department require transposition into UK law; and what estimate he has made of the cost to (i) the public purse and (ii) the private sector of such measures. [89679]

**Chris Grayling:** The EU Directives affecting the Department for Work and Pensions and requiring transposition into UK law are as follows:

Directive 2010/41/EU on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self employed capacity. This repeals council directive 86/613/EEC. Data are limited in this area but we estimate costs to the public purse to be less than £1 million per annum. The transposition is not expected to impose any costs on the private sector.

Directive 2010/32/EU on the Framework Agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and health care sector concluded by HOSPEEM and the European Federation of Public Service Unions. This requires transposition by 11 May 2013. An impact assessment is being prepared, but costs to the private sector are likely to be low. As the directive relates to risks of injury to workers in the health care sector we anticipate that the majority of costs will fall to the NHS. Administrative costs of transposing the directive are estimated at around £140,000.

### Unemployment: Immigration

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the Migration Advisory Committee's report on the link between immigration and unemployment. [91158]

**Chris Grayling:** No formal assessment has been made of the Migration Advisory Committee report, but I welcome the contribution the committee's work is making to our understanding of the role migration plays in the UK labour market.

Its conclusions are consistent with the direction of Government policies that are focused on bringing migration down to more sustainable levels. We are undertaking a radical shake up of the welfare system and investing to improve the skills of the existing UK work force. This will ensure that people are better prepared for, have more incentive and face more requirements to take up work, reducing the degree to which we rely on migrant workers.

### Work Capability Assessments

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 14 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, what proportion of *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* physiotherapists were assessed as (i) A-grade, (ii) B-grade, (iii) C-grade and (iv) D-grade, by region. [90316]

**Chris Grayling:** Health care professionals (HCPs) are not categorised in terms of A, B and C as some may have more than one audit undertaken.

The results in respect of the audit data referred to in page 14 of the Government's response to Professor Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment are shown in the following table.

It shows overall the number of reports for each practitioner type that achieved either an A, B, or C grade following audit.

*Sum of count of audits*

*Percentage*

| | *Overall grade code* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Practitioner type | *A* | *B* | *C* | *Grand Total* |
| Medical Adviser | 71.5 | 24.8 | 3.7 | 100.0 |
| Registered nurse | 70.2 | 25.0 | 4.8 | 100.0 |
| Registered physiotherapist | 71.1 | 28.9 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| Grand total | 70.7 | 25.1 | 4.2 | 100.0 |

At audit category D is not a recognised category.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 14 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, how often each Atos approved health care professional is subject to *(a)* auditing and *(b)* quality checking. [90317]

**Chris Grayling:** The frequency of audit/quality checking varies. For example, targeted audit is carried out where a quality, rework or complaint issue has been identified in order to establish whether there is evidence of an ongoing problem and the number of cases audited is determined by the health care professional's mentor or medical manager. However, as a minimum, the work of every health care professional in each benefit stream and function is audited six monthly on a rolling basis.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 14 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, what proportion of *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* physiotherapists received more than one C-grade assessment. [90318]

**Chris Grayling:** In respect to the audited data referred to in page 14 of the Government's response to Professor Harrington's second independent review of the Work Capability Assessment the results are:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Doctors | 1.3 |
| *(b)* Nurses | 1.1 |
| *(c)* Physiotherapists | 0 |

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 16 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, what proportion of *(a)* employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants fail to return the initial ESA50 questionnaire, *(b)* ESA claimants fail to attend the Work Capability Assessment, *(c)* Work Capability Assessment decisions meet the criteria in the Decision Making Quality Assessment Framework, *(d)* reconsiderations are received, *(e)* decisions are changed following reconsideration, *(f)* appeals are received and *(g)* appeals are upheld. [90321]

**Chris Grayling:** As detailed in the Government's response, DWP will be using a wide range of indices and management information to monitor the impact of the changes introduced as a result of Professor Harrington's first independent review.

Changes to the ESA process were introduced from October 2011 to better support claimants throughout the process, ensuring they understand what is required of them and why a particular decision has been made. It is anticipated that these changes will result in a reduction in the rates of failure to return the initial ESA50 questionnaire and failure to attend the work capability assessment and appeals as well as improvements to decision making standards which may result in both less reconsiderations and decisions being overturned at appeal. However it is too early as yet to report any findings resulting from the changes in October.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 19 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, if he will publish the results of his Department's monthly monitor of recruitment and retention of Atos-approved health care professionals. [90331]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions monitors on a monthly basis the recruitment and retention of Atos-approved health care professionals.

At the monthly Executive Management Board (EMB) Atos Healthcare provide DWP with a report detailing recruitment, attrition, and capacity.

However the information contained within this report is commercial in confidence. It cannot be released as release of the information would prejudice the interests of Atos Healthcare and the Department's future dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers.

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 20 of the Government's response to Professor Malcolm Harrington's Second Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment, when he last met the UK Drug Policy Commission to discuss the support offered to employment and support allowance claimants with drug and alcohol misuse-related conditions. [90333]

**Chris Grayling:** The Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Basingstoke (Maria Miller), and I met with representatives from the UK Drug Policy Commission on 26 January 2011 at which the discussion included various methods of providing support both in work and in the transition back into employment to people with drug and alcohol misuse-related conditions.

As part of Second Independent Review Professor Harrington met with the UK Drug Policy Commission, and as set out in our response to Professor Harrington we have committed to engage with the UK Drug Policy Commission and other relevant experts during 2012 as part of implementing his recommendations.

## Work Programme

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism he has put in place to alert his Department to potential prime provider failure on the Work programme. [90933]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department has set minimum performance standards for Work programme providers and we will use internal job outcome information to provide early warning of any potential failure to deliver these standards.

Minimum standards have been set for each of the main participant groups, requiring providers to deliver job outcome results that are at least 10% higher than would have been expected if those same groups had not joined the programme.

We will intervene and take action, with the aim of improving performance, against providers who fail to meet the minimum standards. If those performance improvements are not achieved within a short timescale, action up to and including contract termination will be taken.

In addition the Department will encourage ongoing competition by shifting market share from those who perform least well to the best performing provider in the contract package area.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the outcome data for the Work programme to be published in autumn 2012 will include the number of referrals to and outcome payments received by individual tier 1 and tier 2 providers in each contract package area. [90937]

**Chris Grayling:** Official statistics on Work programme referrals and attachments up to October 2011 will be published in February 2012. Statistics on job outcomes will be released from autumn 2012. DWP collects data at prime provider level and therefore the published statistics will report only to prime provider level for each contract.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value is of Work programme contracts awarded to each individual prime provider. [90938]

**Chris Grayling:** Work programme funding for providers is based primarily on results. Total spend depends on performance. Our forecasts are for expenditure to be in the region of £3 billion to £5 billion over the life of contracts.

**Stephen Timms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 600W, on Work programme, which organisation he has commissioned to provide the independent evaluation of the Work programme. [90948]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions has commissioned a consortium led by the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) to undertake an independent evaluation of the Work programme. Evaluation work started in autumn 2011 and will conclude in 2014.

# Ministerial Correction

*Tuesday 17 January 2012*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Deloitte: Government Departments

**John Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 537-8W, on Government departments: Deloitte, what the *(a)* net value and *(b)* individual value was of each of the Government contracts awarded to (i) Deloitte and (ii) associates of Deloitte since May 2010. [85945]

*[Official Report, 10 January 2012, Vol. 538, c. 249-52W.]*

*Letter of correction from Francis Maude:*

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Glasgow North West (John Robertson) on 10 January 2012. The full answer given was as follows:

**Mr Maude:** The following table summarises contracts that are listed on Contract Finder. The total potential value of these contracts exceeds £1.47 billion; actual net value will depend on usage, particularly of framework agreements. Further information is held by individual Departments.

| *Supplier* | *Procuring authority* | *Contract* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA8 Scotland—Ingeus Deloitte | 141,761,075 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | English Work Programme—CPA16 West Yorkshire—Ingeus Deloitte | 75,893,060 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA5 North East—Ingeus Deloitte | 111,509,095 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA1 East of England—Ingeus Deloitte | 117,887,335 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA3 West London—Ingeus Deloitte | 102,846,725 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA2 East Midlands—Ingeus Deloitte | 116,576,495 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA6 North West—Merseyside, Halton, Cumbria and Lancashire—Ingeus Deloitte | 107,089,660 |
| Deloitte LLP | Northern Ireland Audit Office | Financial auditing services | 264,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Skills Funding Agency | Cloud Readiness | 120,000 |
| Deloitte | Humber NHS Foundation Trust | Auditing services | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust | Internal audit services | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | Fabrick Housing Group | Auditing services | 16,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | One Vision Housing Ltd | Auditing services | 25,000,000 |
| Deloitte | National Audit Office | Accounting and auditing services | 2,450,000 |
| Deloitte MCS Ltd. | Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council | Business and management consultancy and related services[2] | 400,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP (local authorities) | Audit Scotland | Statutory audit services | 2,439,000 |
| Deloitte LLP (health bodies) | Audit Scotland | Statutory audit services | 1,896,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Coventry City Council | Financial consultancy services[2] | 20,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | University of Leeds | Statutory audit services | [1]— |
| Deloitte and Touche Public Sector Internal Audit Ltd | North Devon District Council | Internal audit services | 33,000,000 |
| Deloitte | Herefordshire Council | Auditing services[2] | 3,000,000 |
| Drivers Jonas Deloitte | NHS Shared Business Services Ltd | Property management services of real estate on a fee or contract basis[2] | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | The Pensions Regulator | Pension services[2] | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | The Pensions Regulator | Business and management consultancy and related services[2] | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Drivers Jonas Deloitte | Swan Housing Association Ltd | Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services[2] | [1]— |

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[1] No data

[2] Framework agreements rather than individual contracts.

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr Maude:** The following table summarises contracts that are listed on Contract Finder. **The net value will depend on usage, particularly of framework agreements.** Further information is held by individual Departments.

| *Supplier* | *Procuring authority* | *Contract* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA8 Scotland—Ingeus Deloitte[2] | 141,761,075 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | English Work Programme—CPA16 West Yorkshire—Ingeus Deloitte[2] | 75,893,060 |
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| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA3 West London—Ingeus Deloitte[2] | 102,846,725 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA2 East Midlands—Ingeus Deloitte[2] | 116,576,495 |
| Ingeus Deloitte | Department for Work and Pensions | Work Programme—CPA6 North West—Merseyside, Halton, Cumbria and Lancashire—Ingeus Deloitte[2] | 107,089,660 |
| Deloitte LLP | Northern Ireland Audit Office | Financial auditing services | 264,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Skills Funding Agency | Cloud Readiness | 120,000 |
| Deloitte | Humber NHS Foundation Trust | Auditing services | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust | Internal audit services | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | Fabrick Housing Group | Auditing services | **160,000** |
| Deloitte LLP | One Vision Housing Ltd | Auditing services[2] | **250,000** |
| Deloitte | National Audit Office | Accounting and auditing services | 2,450,000 |
| Deloitte MCS Ltd. | Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council | Business and management consultancy and related services[2] | **4,000,000** |
| Deloitte LLP (local authorities) | Audit Scotland | Statutory audit services | 2,439,000 |
| Deloitte LLP (health bodies) | Audit Scotland | Statutory audit services | 1,896,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Coventry City Council | Financial consultancy services[2] | 20,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | University of Leeds | Statutory audit services | [1]— |
| Deloitte and Touche Public Sector Internal Audit Ltd | North Devon District Council | Internal audit services | **330,000** |
| Deloitte | Herefordshire Council | Auditing services[2] | 3,000,000 |
| Drivers Jonas Deloitte | NHS Shared Business Services Ltd | Property management services of real estate on a fee or contract basis[2] | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | The Pensions Regulator | Pension services[2] | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | The Pensions Regulator | Business and management consultancy and related services[2] | [1]— |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services (Lot 1)[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services (Lot 2)[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services (Lot 3)[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Deloitte LLP | Buying Solutions | Computer-related professional services (Lot 5)[2] | 50,000,000 |
| Drivers Jonas Deloitte | Swan Housing Association Ltd | Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services[2] | [1]— |

[1] No data

[2] **These are framework agreements or contracts split into lots, under which Deloitte is one of several successful companies; the contract value represents the total potential value across all successful bidders.**

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# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SERIES

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VOLUME 538

*10th January—20th January 2012*

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  - References ending in 'wh' indicate Westminster Hall sittings.
  - References ending in 'ws' indicate written statements.
  - References ending in 'w' indicate written questions.
  - References ending in 'p' indicate written petitions.
  - References ending in 'mc' indicate ministerial corrections.
- References under all headings except the names of Members contributing to Parliamentary business and the titles of legislation are listed in one numerical sequence irrespective of whether the material is taken on the floor of the House, is discussed at a Westminster Hall sitting, is a written statement or is a written question.
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